healthgrades.
OUTSTANDING PATIENT EXPERIENCE
2025

Where Exceptional Care Meets Exceptional Experiences

At Bronson Methodist Hospital, every patient experience reflects the high standard of care we're known for — and it shows. We're proud to be recognized with the Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award, placing us among the Top 15% of hospitals in the nation for patient satisfaction. Our team is focused on delivering compassionate, personalized care that puts you first. Because at Bronson, your experience matters.

Learn more at **bronsonhealth.com/bmh**.

BRONSON

the UE

Otsego & Plainwell
UNION ENTERPRISE

FREE

Volume 71, Issue 42 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Otsego band takes memorable, music-filled trip to Florida

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

For members of the Otsego High School band program, a recent trip to Florida provided far more than just sunshine and sightseeing.

It was a chance to grow as musicians, perform on a national stage and create lasting memories together — all while representing their school and community in a way that left a lasting impression.

"It was amazing," Otsego band director Mitch Piersma said. "The students were super good."

The trip, which takes place once every four years to give each student a chance to participate during their high school career, included a variety of educational and performance opportunities along with time to enjoy the experience together.

One of the early highlights came on the way to Florida, when the Symphonic Band participated in a clinic at Vanderbilt University.

"One thing that made me extremely happy as a director was that our Symphonic Band participated in a clinic held at Vanderbilt University," Piersma said. "They learned a lot from Dr. Thomas Verrier, who worked with them while the Concert Band watched."

That experience didn't just stay in Nashville.

"Some of the things he had them work on already became evident in their playing when the combined groups played in their 'Soundtrack Sessions' workshop a few days later," Piersma said.

The Disney "Soundtrack Sessions" workshop proved to be another impactful learning opportunity, giving students a glimpse into the expectations of professional musicians.

"It really helps that they were instructed by a highly regarded college professor and a professional musician, so they got a firsthand taste of what is expected from their perspective," Piersma said.

"The students' eyes got really big when they realized that their sight reading was being recorded for 'Soundtrack Sessions.' They definitely concentrated more and brought their playing up a few notches when they realized that."

The Otsego High School band performs on Main Street in the Magic Kingdom. (Photo provided)

Members of the Otsego High School band enjoy the rides at Magic Kingdom. (Photo provided)

The session emphasized the importance of quick preparation — a stark contrast to the typical school concert cycle.

"The director's point was that to perform a song at a concert, we usually have around 30 rehearsals and then we perform," Piersma said. "In the professional musician world it is just the opposite — you have one rehearsal and then do 30 performances. Time equals money. You have to be good to do this."

As a reward, students saw their work come to life in a unique way.

"Their reward at the end was performing an excerpt from 'Frozen' and having what they played be the background for a scene from that movie," Piersma said. "We received a recording of it, so we can watch it later. They really enjoyed that part."

Another unforgettable moment came when the Otsego marching band performed in the Magic Kingdom parade at Walt Disney World.

"Beyond words," Piersma said. "They worked hard and to have their already successful year blossom in front of thousands of people, in an iconic park was just amazing."

While the musical opportunities stood out, Piersma said some of his favorite moments came away from the stage.

"I also enjoy watching the students have fun at the parks and the beach," he said. "Many of them have never seen the ocean."

The trip also included a moment of adversity when a bus broke down following a beach outing, forcing students to miss a scheduled dinner show.

Rather than dampening the experience, it became a reflection of the program's culture.

"Our students can create appropriate fun in any situation," Piersma said. "I am very proud of the fact that I heard no one complain — student or chaperone — and they made the most of the disappointing situation by playing games and being social with each other."

That attitude carried throughout the trip and was noticed by others.

"Musically, it was great to hear that our kids' performances are respected and the public recognizes that they have something special here," Piersma said. "But the way they say 'please' and 'thank you,' hold the door for strangers, and clean up after themselves at rest stops and food places should make Otsego proud."

For Piersma, that combination of musical growth and personal character is what made the trip truly meaningful.

"Otsego Pride for sure," he said.

The Otsego High School band participated in a Soundtrack Session at Disney World. (Photo provided)

Plainwell Art Hop moves to April, offers evening of art, music and more

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

With a new date and a wide variety of artists and activities, the Plainwell Art Hop is set to return next week with something for just about everyone.

The annual event will take place from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17, with organizers moving it from its traditional early March slot to mid-April in hopes of more favorable weather.

This year's Art Hop will feature 18 visual and performance artists spread across 13 locations throughout downtown Plainwell, giving visitors plenty of opportunities to explore different forms of creativity in a walkable setting.

Participants can begin their evening at the Art Hop Hub, located at 111 N. Main St. at the downtown traffic light, where maps and event information will be available. The Plainwell Arts Council will also host an art auction at the Hub.

A wide range of visual art will be on display, including watercolor, acrylic and mixed media painting, along with jewelry, glasswork, metal pieces and other three-dimensional art.

In addition to the visual displays, several performance-based acts will be featured throughout the evening. Collywobbles Theater Co. will present short radio plays complete with live sound effects, while a magician and multiple live music stops will add to the atmosphere.

The Ransom District Library will also highlight artwork created by Plainwell elementary, middle school and high school students.

Visitors can take advantage of Plainwell's downtown social district during the event, with the ability to carry beverages within the designated area from participating establishments. Several local restaurants will also be offering food and drink specials throughout the evening.

The Art Hop is sponsored by the Plainwell Arts Council, the City of Plainwell, Ransom District Library and the Friends of the Library.

Organizers encourage community members to come out and enjoy an evening celebrating art, creativity and connection.

Waanders Concrete Co.
RESIDENTIAL and COMMERCIAL
3169 BABYLON RD. ALLEGAN
673-6352
STATE CERTIFIED MIX BATCH PLANT

HE
HARTMAN-ELLIS AGENCY
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST
155 Brady St, Allegan
www.HartmanEllis.com
ph. 269-673-4256
Fax 269-686-0710

INDEX

Classifieds B7
Puzzles / For The Record B4
Obituaries A7
Viewpoints A6
Community Events A4
Religion B8
Sports B1-B3

Ganges Township seeks ordinance enforcement officer

By Art Nicholas

After months of discussion at township board and planning commission meetings, Ganges Township has officially posted a notice seeking to hire a part-time Ordinance Enforcement Officer — a position residents and commissioners have been pressing to fill.

The notice, posted by Township Clerk Robin Phelps, states that Ganges Township is seeking a dependable individual to carry out and enforce local ordinances within the community. Responsibilities will include investigating complaints, conducting site inspections, issuing notices of violation, and preparing reports. The position is part-time, with compensation to be discussed at the time of hire.

The push for the role has been building in recent months. At the January 27, 2026, Planning Commission meeting, Trustee Dick Hutchins reported that the Township Board was actively working to find an enforcement officer. Resident Chuck Mannion of 6611 Deer Trail echoed the urgency, suggesting the board finalize the job description and post it publicly to maximize visibility.

The township already has a suite of ordinances on the books that the new officer would be tasked with upholding, including a Vehicle Storage & Repair Ordinance, a Litter Ordinance, and an Anti-Noise and Public Nuisance Ordinance — regulations addressing the types of quality-of-life complaints common in rural communities. Noise has been a recurring topic at recent planning commission meetings, with commissioners reminding applicants as recently as February 2026 that outdoor entertainment requires township approval and that the noise ordinance must be followed.

Photos captured throughout the township.

How to Apply

Those interested in applying should submit a letter of interest along with any relevant qualifications to Ganges Township Clerk Robin Phelps at gangesclerk@gmail.com or by mail to:

Ganges Township
1904 64th Street
Fennville, MI 49408

Letters will be accepted through April 23, 2026.

For more information, contact the Clerks office at 269-543-8316. Office hours are Monday and Tuesday 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and Thursday noon–5:00 p.m.

Martin Township welcomes new Treasurer Maria Leep

By David Young

Maria Leep Wednesday evening attended her first Martin Township Board meeting as the township's new treasurer.

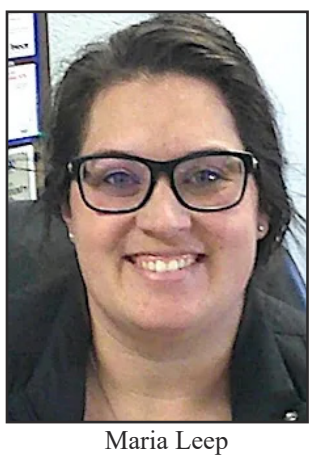
Leep, only a shirt-tail relative of Supervisor Glenn Lee, was appointed last month to succeed the retiring Sue Tiemeyer.

The supervisor announced that, "Her father-in-law is my cousin."

The new treasurer is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. She has worked in Allegan County adult and child protective services since earning her degree.

She and her husband moved to Martin Township seven years ago.

Allegan County Commissioner Gale Duggan, a regular at township meetings, thanked Lee for her services to the county and expressed optimism that her services will be valued in Martin Township as well.



Maria Leep

In other business at Wednesday's meeting, the Township Board:

Scheduled the annual budget workshop for Wednesday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m. The fiscal year for Martin Township runs from July 1 to June 30.

Granted the low bid of $3,300 to Stoney Point for removal of trees andcleanup in East Cemetery.

Was told by Supervisor Lee that the application for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources recreation grant has been sent, "So now, it's a waiting game, according to the supervisor. The township wants to use the grant to build a park between the Clippers Cafe and JC Wheeler Library, including a splash pad.

Editor's Note: Story is courtesy of TownBroadcast

Motorcylist crashes, in serious condition

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office is investigating a serious motorcycle crash that happened Sunday afternoon near the intersection of 113th Avenue and Jennings Court.

Deputies say the crash occurred around 12:41 p.m. Preliminary findings indicate a man was riding his motorcycle eastbound when he lost control and went down in the roadway.

Deputies say the rider, who was the only person on the motorcycle, was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. First responders from Allegan Fire Department and Life EMS treated him on scene before transporting him to a local hospital. He is currently listed in serious condition.

Art in the Garden at Silo on April 18

By Gari Voss

The Allegan Area Arts Council will host A Bouquet of Arts, the 16th Annual Art in the Garden, on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10am to 4pm at The Silo, 1071 32nd St., Allegan. The day's proceeds will supply art camp scholarships for Allegan County students in grades 8-11.

A Bouquet of Arts holds opportunities for all ages, talents and passions. There is a full complement of vendors and artists in the Artists Market for those wishing to shop. Whiskey & Wine Band will take the stage at 1:30pm to provide music and some ambiance.

For poetry lovers, at 10:30am, members of North, a poetry group, will read Ekphrastic poems written in response to prints and paintings by local artists. North is a group organized by Elizabeth Kerlikowske and Kathleen McGookey.

"The group gathers biweekly to share and critique work, celebrating words, art, and community," shared AAAC organizers. "Members have included Robin Church, Melanie Dunbar, Jill Doster Marcusse, Amy Newday, and Julie Stotz-Ghosh. The poems and artwork will be displayed in the Silent Auction Area."

The Silent Auction includes wonderful pieces of artwork by local artists, pieces from local artisans, and baskets of goodies.

Workshops cover a variety of genres. Drew Enborsky, the Crochet Dude, will lead a class on creating dimensional crochet flowers with all materials provided and only basic crochet skills necessary.

The Art of Miniature Moss Gardening workshop will include a brief discussion of moss and miniature Japanese gardening before guiding attendees in creating a living, moss garden. The moss, containers and stones will be provided, but participants are encouraged to add their own meaningful rocks or items.

A wonderful feature during the day will be the Creative Corner for Kids. Young participants can explore free arts-related activities. The action begins with Carol Doeringer reading Bendford Draws a Blank by Danielle Dufayet. The reading will move into a DIY piece of art.

Materials will be available to create Garden as Art, a mini-garden with dinosaurs, gnomes, and fairies. Your Name as Art will encourage participants to discover all the positivity within themself as they transform their name into a work of art. Try Your Hand at Painting will furnish materials and assistance in creating a watercolor masterpiece. Try Your Hand at Sculpturing will allow the youth to use modeling clay to form a favorite object.

From 2-3pm, musician Nancy Snyder will encourage everyone to try a variety of instruments and discover their musical talents.

For advanced tickets to participate in workshops, visit Something Sweet for You or The Bear and Fox Den.

The Allegan Area Arts Council chose a logo designed by Credence Miling, who participated in the 2025 AAAC Summer Art Camp. The black and white line drawing was enhanced using AI to create a colorized version that would represent "A Bouquet of Arts" which is the theme for the 2026 16th Annual Art in the Garden. The gathering will be on Saturday, April 18, from 10am-4pm at The Silo, 1071 32nd St (M-40 South) in Allegan. All are welcome to come, browse the wonderful vendors, and attend workshops that will be held on the lower level. Tickets for workshops are available at Something Sweet for you and The Bear & Fox Den.

Hopkins Township approves Wayland Ford rezoning

By David Young

A nine-acre parcel that eventually is supposed to be the new home for the Wayland Ford dealership in Hopkins Township won a zoning issue Monday night from the Hopkins Township Board.

Wayland Ford not long ago announced its intentions to move from its current site in the City of Wayland across the U.S.-131 expressway west into the township, saving a lot of money on property taxes. To help accommodate the move, the township created a downtown development authority district for 13 properties on the west side of U.S.-131 in an effort to entice businesses to locate there.

The Schanz Family Trust, the seller of the land, was represented by Mike Houseman of the Wolverine BuildingGroup.

However, the Hopkins Township Planning Commission earlier this year did not recommend to the Township Board the dealership's conditional rezoning proposal, from C-1, neighborhood business district, to C-2, general business district.

Planning Commission members explained there wasn't enough infrastructure, secure as water and sewer, to accommodate the project.

But commission members changed their tune afterward, insisting, "Because the applicant's conditional rezoning request presents these specific circumstances and benefits, but limits the potential negative effects that may arise with respect to public water and sewer availability with an unconditional C-2 unconditional rezoning of the subject property, this is a unique circumstance where conditional rezoning is appropriate.

So the rezoning proposal was presented again to the Township Board, this time with the Planning Commission's blessing and it was approved on a 5-0 vote.

In other business at the meeting, the Township Board:

• Tabled a plan to plant 28 trees in Maplewood Cemetery, mostly because the township sexton outlined several reasons the project may include long-term risks, particularly blocking the road with the trees.

• Purchased an easement for $1 for the Hilliards Park, on property the township already has purchased.

• Agreed to pay $625 to Past Preservation LLC to repair a headstone that has no family connections and could be an obstruction down the road.

• Noted the resignation of Mike Alberta as janitor for the township hall. His resignation will be effective next month. The job pays $19 an hour.

• Agreed to pay for a Miscosoft subscription for $2,000 a year and up to $840 a year to Google to handle e-mail services. Supervisor Cade Bolser said the moves will save the township$640 a year.

• Noted that Allegan Solar LLC has withdrawn its application and the Michigan Public Services Commission now is in control of local solar requests.

Editors Note: Story courtesy of TownBroadcast

Headline Correction:

To dispel the confusion regarding the front page headline on April 9. 2026. The headline should have read Cheshire supervisor and treasurer resign from township board. Supervisor Steve Revor resigned as of April 1, 2026, and Treasurer Ron Hale will leave the position after April 15, 2026. Clerk Jodi Pinnell was elected when Donna Hetzel decided not to run for re-election after many years of serving the township. Clerk Pinnell, as any new clerk, has a steep learning curve as she learns to navigate how a township board operates.

THOMAS STREET CLINIC
VOTED BEST PHYSICAN/FAMILY DOCTOR IN ALLEGAN COUNTY
NABIL NOUNA, M.D
AMY STEWARD, N.P
JENNIFER VANCE, P.A
Internal Medicine & Family Medicine
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
Immediate Appointments are available
Established patients are seen in 1-2 days
Most insurances are accepted
For appointment call 269-673-2179
305 THOMAS STREET, ALLEGAN, MI 49010

We sell and install TVs and Home Theaters

Professional instalation at your home or business
A-Tech COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

Community Events

Event information can be sent to:
wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com

HUGE WEEKEND OF EVENTS!

Wed., Apr. 8, 2026: Deadline to register for Lifeline Gala
Register for the Thurs., April 23rd Gala by contacting 269 673-3791, emailing development@safeharborcac.org. or visiting www.safeharborcac.org/events.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 5-7:30pm: Plainwell Art Hop. 211 N. Main St. Plainwell
Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 7pm: Kevin McDaniel & Jack Dailey. The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 10am: Summer Activity Fair @ the Griswold. Griswold Auditorium Undercroft Hubbard St. Allegan
Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 10am-4pm: Art in the Garden, A Bouquet of Arts. The Silo 1071 32nd St. Allegan
Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 8pm" Strum, Dumb & Dumber Band. Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Sat., Apr. 18, 8am-5pm & Sun., Apr. 19, 2026, 9am-2pm: Michigan Alpaca Fest. Allegan County Fairgrounds Fair Drive Allegan
Sun., Apr. 19, 2026, 8am-noon: Eagle Riders Breakfast. The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Now – Apr. 22, 2026: Camp Kidwell Spring Flower Sale
Help kids get to camp or give to the Memorial Campership Fund. Go to https://givebutter.com/camp-kidwell-spring-flowers-2026. Flowers can be picked up May 7-9 at Chestnut Farms.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Apr. 15, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Grab your instrument and join the jam or just come and listen and have lunch. Eat lunch, relax, refresh, repeat.

Wed., Apr. 15, 2026, 6:30pm: Pub Quiz @ Tantrick Brewing Co.
Tantrick Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a team up to 6 and library card and test your trivia knowledge for 4 rounds. Registration begins at 5:30pm.

Thurs., Apr. 16, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories, songs, and activities.
3:30pm: Teen Art Hangout – 6-12 graders can drop in for fun crafts out of candy.
6pm: The 1910 Road Trip of the Abernathy Boys – Register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy the 2,500 mile trek from New York City to Oklahoma with a detour across Michigan in a brand-new motor car in 1910 by a 9 and 6 year old.

Thurs., Apr. 16, 2026, 5-7pm: Third Thirsty Thursday
The Grill House 1071 32nd St. Allegan
Monthly Happy Hour with the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce. All are welcome.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 5-7:30pm: Plainwell Art Hop
211 N. Main St. Plainwell
Enjoy a beautiful walk around Plainwell to witness the talent of local artists.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 5-7:30pm: Company Auditions for Theatre Co.
Plainwell City Hall 211 N Main St, Plainwell
The Collywobbles Theatre Co. is seeking talented and versatile actors. Come see us at our performance during the Plainwell Art Hop. We will be chatting and sharing more information with interested actors. For more information email msucarole@yahoo.com or check out our Facebook page.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 6pm: Teen Tech Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6-12 graders can register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy an evening of fun technology.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 6pm: Murder Mystery Dinner, *Of Sound Mind and Dead Body*
Join the Wayland Union Improv Team for an evening of a 3-course meal and interactive show. Tickets at https://wufactickets.ludus.com/index.php.

Fri., Apr. 17, 2026, 7pm: Kevin McDaniel & Jack Dailey
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy an evening of good food, friends, and acoustic music. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 10am: Summer Activity Fair @ the Griswold
Griswold Auditorium Undercroft Hubbard St. Allegan
Drop in to learn about the many summer camps, classes, and programs offered for youth in Allegan and the surrounding area. Ask questions and receive information to make summer safe and exciting.

Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 10am-4pm: Art in the Garden, A Bouquet of Arts
The Silo 1071 32nd St. Allegan
The Allegan Area Arts Council invites all to participate in workshops, visit the artists and vendors, and enjoy performances.

Sat., Apr. 18, 2026, 8pm" Strum, Dumb & Dumber Band
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy an evening of food, friends and music.

Sat., Apr. 18, 8am-5pm & Sun., Apr. 19, 2026, 9am-2pm: Michigan Alpaca Fest
Allegan County Fairgrounds Fair Drive Allegan
Enjoy the beautiful alpacas, fiber art, the shows, demonstrations, and vendors. For more information, visit http://www.mialpacafest.com.

Sun., Apr. 19, 2026, 8am-noon: Eagle Riders Breakfast
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members, guests and the public can enjoy a wonderful breakfast. All profits go to charity.

Mon., Apr. 20, 2026, 6pm: Craftastic: Upcycled CD Suncatchers
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Register at 269 673-4625 to create beautiful suncatchers.

Tues., Apr. 21, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds can drop in to enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: Tween Advisory Board – Grades 4-7 can drop in to help design programs at the library and enjoy some snacks.
6pm: Smart Gardening with Trees – Register at 269 673-4625 to learn from Deanna Hedlund about planting and caring for trees.

Tues., Apr. 21, 2026, 12-1pm: Leadership Roundtable
ACCF 112 Locust St. Allegan or Zoom
This roundtable offers a trusted environment where leaders can brainstorm ideas, work through challenges, and offer assistance to peers. Register: alleganfoundation.org/community-calendar

Wed., Apr. 22, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café – Caregivers can Drop in and enjoy a beverage while the little ones create in the children's area.
6pm: Plant & Puzzle Swap – Drop in and bring indoor and outdoor perennials or puzzles to swap.

Wed., Apr. 22, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Grab your instrument and join the jam or just come and listen and have lunch. Eat lunch, relax, refresh, repeat.

Thurs., Apr. 23, 2026, 9am-4pm: Community Blood Pressure Screening
Allegan Bible Church 412 Sherman St. Allegan
Wings of Hope will host a Blood Pressure Clinic. All are welcome.

Thurs., Apr. 23, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – Kids 3-5 can drop in for stories and activities.
4pm: Teen Advisory Group – Grades 8-12 can drop in and help plan future teen activities and enjoy snacks.
6pm: History with Mark – Register at 269 673-4625 to spend an evening with Mark Lovett exploring Benjamin Pritchard and Jefferson Davis on May 10, 1865.

Thurs., Apr. 23, 2026, 6pm: 18th Annual Lifeline Gala
The Silo 1071 32nd St. Allegan
Join Safe Harbor in an evening of extraordinary raffles, cocktails and cuisine, and Buttons for Bravery auction. Purchase tickets on the alleganfoundation.org/community-calendar.

Thurs., Apr. 23, 2026, 7-8:30pm: 4th District Candidate Forum
Allegan Area ESA Tech Center 2891 116th Ave./M222 Allegan
Everyone is invited to come to the auditorium and listen to and ask questions of the Allegan County 4th District candidates. For additional information, contact Kerry Murray murraykerry968@gmail.com.

Fri., Apr. 24, 2026, 6pm: Family Nerf Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Register at 269 673-4625 to battle family members and friends. A water break will be provided.

Fri., Apr. 24, 2026, 7pm: Owen McDaniel
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy a wonderful breakfast. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Sat., Apr. 25, 2026, 8-10am: Mist Netting or Bird Program
Silver Creek County Park Hamilton
All ages can help retrieve birds from nets, band birds, record vital information, and release birds back to the wild. Register through the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC).

Sat., Apr. 25, 2026, 9am: Spring Seedling Sale
Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan

Sun., Apr. 26, 2026, 1pm: Bargo Card Game
The Eagles Chestnut St. Allegan
Members and guests can enjoy a wonderful breakfast. New members are welcome. Speak with a member or ring the doorbell and we will answer your questions.

Mon., Apr. 27, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Sing Song Family Yoga – All ages can join Deb Weiss-Gelmi for yoga, music and literacy.
6pm: Bingo – All ages can take a chance to win prizes.

Tues., Apr. 28, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 year olds can drop in for stories and activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting – all are welcome to gather and plan activities that support the library.
Apr. 29 – May 3, 2026: Vote for favorite Photos
Everyone can go online to vote for favorite photos submitted to the Allegan County Photo Contest.

Wed., Apr. 29, 2026, 11am-3pm: House of the Rising Song Café
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Grab your instrument and join the jam or just come and listen and have lunch. Eat lunch, relax, refresh, repeat.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Fridays & Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Bear & Fox Yarn Den
Bear & Fox 141 Brady St. Allegan
Tues. 2-8pm; Wed.-Sat. 11am-5pm; Sun.-Mon closed
Enjoy beautiful yarns and classes or Tuesday Stitch Night.

Children's Book Box – Immanuel Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church 631 Grand Street Allegan
Children can find free books in the Book Box constructed by the Sunday School Youth. Check it out.

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Check on the Core and More class. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
Girls Troop BSA 191 (girls 11-17): Contact Sara Keen sarajkeen@gmail.com.

Senior Fitness/Fit Over 50: Fun fitness designed for ages 50-80plus!
Hicks Gym, 311 E Plainwell Street, Plainwell. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am. Drop in or call Sharrin at 269-330-3204 or email at denzgirllc@att.net.

The Fairways:
237 Hubbard St. Allegan (269) 655-5890
Get assistance with accuracy, distance, course management, club selection, or distance control. Work on a simulator, and treat it like a practice session at the course to achieve overall game improvement.

Tilt 118: Ice Cream, Pinball Machines, Food and More
Tilt 118 118 Brady St. Allegan
Pinball Leagues, Pinball Classes, Arcade Rental
Contact: Email: smalltownamusements@gmail.com; Phone: 269 720-8137

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737

Friday, April 17 - Thursday, April 23
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
Mondays - 2-for-1 Admission • Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
FLASHBACK FRIDAY! Sponsored by Kinard Financial
American Graffiti (1973) Fri., April 24 @ 9:30pm • $5

Your destination for all things jewelry...
engagement to vintage!

Family owned for over 60 years!
Gold and silver buyer: Ethan Bolda at 269-568-8459.
Hart's Jewelry the finest!

SALES • REPAIR
ESTATES
GOLD BUYERS
269-685-5274
124 N. Main, Plainwell
Tues-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-1

INDOOR YARD SALE
Fennville United Methodist Church - 5849 M-89
Thurs. April 16; 4-7p.m.; Fri. April 17; 8a.m.-4p.m.; Sat. April 18; 9a.m.-Noon.
Multi-family donations offer something for everyone. Small table of collectibles. Bake Goods Available. All proceeds support our Education program, Community Outreach Programs and Gardens of Hope, a project in Haiti.

THIS AD FOR SALE!
More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*
Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!
Call this paper or 800-227-7636
www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018
CNA

CEDAM Fellow praised by Allegan Council for efforts to improve housing

By Gari Voss

The City of Allegan's Council began with an Arbor Day Proclamation then received information from Lori Antkoviak from Safe Harbor about April being Child Abuse Prevention Month and from Betsy Peterson and Linda Teeter of the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center. The thread that went through the agenda was the development of properties around the city. As Mohammed Gabow, a Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) Fellow, comes to the end of his 15-month internship, he took time to review the progress the city has made during this time. For his many accomplishments, the Council voiced their thanks.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Arbor Day Proclamation. Allegan has received Tree City USA recognition for 40 years, and as Arbor Day, Friday, April 24, 2026, approaches, Mayor Traci Perrigo read and signed a proclamation affirming Allegan's continued support in planting and caring for the trees around the city. On April 24th at 10am, the Department of Public Works staff invite the public to gather for the planting of an Emerald Sunshine Elm in Hanson Park. On Tuesday, April 28th, the city staff will make a presentation at North Ward School to discuss the importance of trees and demonstrate how to plant and care for white pine seedlings that will be given to each student.

Arbor Day was proposed in 1872 by J. Sterline Morton to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture and was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. This is now a countrywide celebration. Trees are a valuable resource for protecting the soil, recreation, and industry. They increase property value and maintain the environment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

Special Assessment Roll.

The Council held a Public Hearing for the Adoption of Resolution 26.12 regarding the confirmation of the Summer 2026 Special Assessment Roll. This assessment began with the identification of parcels that had not paid their fees accrued when the city staff conducted work such as cutting grass or removing blight from the property. The request for payment has followed the communication process. The Council agreed to have the outstanding assessments added to the property tax bill for each parcel if the amount has not been paid by June 30, 2026.

North Main Street.

The Council held the Public Hearing for the sale of a small parcel on N. Main Street. and approved the sale and development of city owned property to ND Community Partners, LLC for $6,000. The buyers would like to develop the parcel by adding a small home and detached garage. This parcel has no government purposes, so can be sold and developed to fit in with the surrounding neighborhood. The Council approved the sale.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The owner of Dr. Watts Electric, LLC spoke to the importance of hiring a licensed electrician to make installations of and improvement to electrical systems.

WRITTEN PETITIONS and PRESENTATIONS

Legal Assistance Center.

Betsy Peterson, president, and Linda Teeter, director of finance, of the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center made a presentation to the Council regarding the work of the Center. Since October 2025, the Center's staff has assisted 208 city residents. The Center was able to guide people through the correct paperwork and help them take the next steps in the legal system. Teeter requested that the city contract with the Center for $3,500 (July 2026 – June 2027) to assist patrons who need assistance with self-representation in civil court matters. This was an increase from the previous $2,500 that covered only 7 months.

Safe Harbor Child Abuse Prevention.

Lori Antkoviak, executive director of Safe Harbor, spoke regarding Safe Harbor and Child Abuse Prevention Month. Safe Harbor continues to deliver services to children who have been abused and to assist as a liaison between the legal system and counseling. Antkoviak stressed the importance of the prevention efforts available in Allegan. She thanked the city for making the Bridge blue in recognition of Prevention Month. The Pinwheel Gardens are still a sign of a healthy, happy childhood. Safe Harbor saw 135 children who were sexually abused in 2025. CASA workers did follow-up with 16 children. To prevent child abuse, students in Allegan County schools were given presentations about recognizing unsafe touch. The Safe Harbor Gala is coming on Thursday, April 23, 2026. Funding has been decreased so the fundraisers are extremely important to the work of Safe Harbor.

REPORTS

Downtown Development Authority.

Mayor Perrigo reviewed the April 2026 Downtown Development Authority Meeting. The group discussed snow removal and the downtown trash and recycling programs. They voted to submit the applications of EccentricGarden LLC and Lacey's Nail Studio LLC to the Michigan Economic Development Commission (MEDC) for possible grants.

Administrative Services

Account Payable & Payroll. The request to approve accounts payable in the amount of $1,611,914.54 and payroll in the amount of $243,485.28 for a total disbursement of $1,855,399.82 passed.

Revenue & Expenditures. Councilmembers could review the February 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Report. These are available to the public online. Any questions can be directed to City Hall.

Possible Weeks Steet Sale. The request to schedule a public hearing for May 11, 2026, regarding the potential sale of city owned parcel 51-290-003-00 on Weeks Street to Brandon and Melissa Genzink was approved. The city staff can develop a sale agreement with the Genzinks, but before any final decision can be made, it must be published in the newspaper. The Genzinks have completed developing a parcel on James Street, and the Council looks for the same success on Week Street.

Monroe Street Purchase. The Council reviewed a proposal from the owner of 226 Monroe Street that would allow the city to purchase their property that backs up to Jaycee Park. The Council expressed their thanks for the thought, but they are not in a position to purchase any property at this time.

Downtown Refuse & Recycling Program. The Council reviewed and adopted the proposed change to the Downtown Allegan Refuse & Recycling Program. The system began in 2023. Usually, there is an overflow of a couple city trash receptables. The DDA suggested that the City eliminate the cardboard and paper recycling containers which would be replaced with additional trash receptacles. There is no cardboard or paper recycling in the city, so people will have to cut up their cardboard and dispose of it in the trash receptacles. The idea was proposed of having recycling at the city public works, but this did not receive support. The city has paid over $13,000 in contamination fines plus Parker Johnson and Ryan Burza have spent hours sorting the areas to prevent further contamination.

Review Griswold Facilities Assessment. The assessment of the Griswold Auditorium by Abonmarche was included in the Council packet. There were 11 categories that were determined to be in poor condition. Six of those areas have been addressed as part of 2025 capital improvements. Three areas are undergoing observation and further investigation. Two will be addressed with 2026 capital improvement funds if approved by the City Council. This would include the Marilla Lounge and accessibility to the front entrance.

Community Economic Development (CEDAM) Review.

Mohammed Gabow, the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) Fellow who has been working with the City of Allegan, reviewed the work he has accomplished during his time in Allegan. His primary task was to focus on improving the housing stock that has been in limited supply.

One accomplishment has been the partnership with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity to implement a home repair program. The grant funds have been used to replace roofs, windows and furnaces. The office continues to receive requests for assistance.

Mohammed worked with city employees to conduct regular code enforcement assessments and identify blight, exterior maintenance concerns, and junk vehicles.

In addition to improving housing, Mohammed identified parcels that the city owned but would never develop. These were put up for sale, and several have been sold or are in the process of being sold and developed or integrated with adjoining properties.

Gabow worked on the development of acreage on Delano Street into 42 new single-family homes, 38 condominiums in the development stage on the former Girl Scout property, and a 52-unit apartment complex on Lowe Street in the planning stage. These will give Allegan new housing options.

Working with Chris Kleinjans of the Allegan County Community Foundation, Mohammed assisted in creating the Allegan Housing Summit. The second summit will happen in May 2026. It is a countywide event that brings together local leaders, housing organizations & developers, and community stakeholders to explore the challenges and strategies related to building homes.

Along with the wins during the last 15 months, Gabow present several challenges or barriers. He hoped for a stronger attendance during the Open House sessions at City Hall where capital improvement projects were shared. There was truly underrepresentation of younger residents, renters, working families, and other populations. There is still much work to do in securing grants to assist with building projects. To continue expanding downtown vibrancy, improvements will continue to be needed, especially on exterior facades.

Mohammed that the Council and city staff for giving him this opportunity. He shared that he had learned a lot and had built a solid network of partners so Allegan can continue to move forward in the housing sector. As Allegan moves forward, Mohammed expressed his willingness to serve as a team member.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Joel Dye expressed his pleasure working with Mohammed. He also reported that the response to the RFP for the Griswold brought a wide variety of companies who toured the building and planned on submitting bids.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

There was a resounding thank you to Mohammed from all council members who have been amazed at what he has accomplished in building a network and seeking funding.

Monday, April 20, 2026, from 4:30-6:30pm Councilmembers Will Walker and Melanie Hooker will be at the library for conversation about the city.

The Allegan County Sheriff's Marine Division are ready to assist boaters, but they would rather not respond to accidents that could have been prevented if those involved had taken the proper safety courses and follow the rules of boating. The free 2026 Boater Safety courses are now being offered. Picture courtesy of Allegan County.

Boating Safety classes offered by Sheriff's Marine Division

By Gari Voss

Summer is rolling in between the April Showers. Those who love to recreate on the water are already dipping their boats, kayaks and canoes into the water. But before getting too carried away, the Allegan County Sheriff's Office Marine Division asked that everyone stop and attend one of the free boating safety classes.

The purpose of these courses is to instruct citizens about boating safety as well as inform them of current boating laws in the State of Michigan. Every year boating accidents take the lives of or cause injury to those in control of a watercraft or a passenger of the craft. By taking proactive steps, those who love the water can mitigate water accidents.

Deputy Rob Martin reminds boaters, "In order to legally operate motorized watercraft in Michigan, the State of Michigan requires persons born after July 1, 1996, to attend and successfully complete a boating safety course and possess a valid boating safety certificate while on the water."

He adds. "Those persons wishing to legally operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC) must be at least 16 years of age and born after December 31, 1978. They also must possess a valid boating safety certificate while on the water. Other restrictions may apply."

To find a Boater Safety Class and register, classes can be found online at the Sheriff's website, http://cms.allegancounty.org/sheriff/Patrol/SitePages/Marine.aspx or click to register on the DNR website https://michigan.storefront.kalkomey.com/em/programs/9.

Once on the website, participants can choose the class they wish to attend and enter their information. Children under 12 years old may take a class, but their parent or guardian must be in attendance. Once registered, a confirmation email will be sent.

The courses offered in Allegan County are:

April 25th, 8am – 2pm
Allegan Co. Sheriff's Office

May 2nd, 9am – 3pm
Plainwell Middle School

May 20th & 21st 6pm – 9pm Saugatuck Yacht Club

May 27th & 28th, 6pm – 9pm Martin High School

May 30th, 8am – 2pm
Green Lake Calvary Church

June 13th, 8am – 2pm
Sandy Pines Resort

June 17th & 18th 6pm – 9pm Saugatuck Yacht Club

For additional information, contact Dep. Rob Martin @ 269-673-0500 ext. 4266 or by email at rmartin@allegancounty.org or Sgt. Todd Wagner at twagner@allegancounty.org or call 269-673-0500 ext. 4456.

Here's why a printed weekly newspaper is important

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

Robert Tomlinson, our news director in Three Rivers, gave a terrific speech to the local Rotary Club about the importance of your local newspaper. I thought I would share a portion with you.

"With our twelve weekly newspapers the mission is the same. To bring you the news of our area with accurate, truthful, and informative reporting. Every week, I'm out and about at meetings, (and so are 20 other reporters we employ) events, festivals, and many sporting events to capture the happenings of our beautiful county and talk with the movers and shakers that make our community what it is.

One of the questions I get asked sometimes is this: Why does a hard-copy local newspaper matter in the Year of our Lord 2026? And the statistics surrounding local journalism means this question is, unfortunately, a legitimate one. According to Northwestern University, the number of newspapers published in the United States has dropped by almost 40 percent since 2005, and daily circulation nationwide since the turn of the century has dropped from between 50 and 60 million to now just over 15 million as of the end of 2025. Over 130 newspapers alone closed shop in 2025.

My usual response to those who ask why local newspapers matter is this: It is the most truthful and thorough way to get the news of what your town and its government are up to on any given week. Nowadays, social media like Facebook and Twitter cannot be fully trusted to give you the complete story, and most of what people post can be described as hearsay, gossip, and even outright lies at times. What they value is outrage, discourse, and cheap clicks rather than the truth, which is what I believe ultimately should matter in today's society, even if that truth may be tough to swallow and challenge previously held beliefs.

I also believe that local newspapers are the last bastion of American democracy, especially in the divisive times we live in today. And I don't mean the big, national newspapers that are owned by people who have never worked in a newsroom in their lives. I'm talking about ones that care about their local community, care about the people in the community, and want to see it succeed while acknowledging its flaws, shortcomings, and worries.

We are the only print newspaper outlet to be at the city and county meetings, the local township meetings, and some of the school board meetings, letting you know everything that goes on as best we can. While we cannot be at everything going on, we do our best to make sure that we cover the news that is impactful and relevant for the community and its future. Do you want to know which roads are getting paved next? We've got that. Do you want to know what tax money was spent on at the local city commission meeting? We've got that. Do you want to know about the next big festival coming to town? We've got that too.

What you won't find, however, is rumors or gossip like you'd find on Facebook. There's a lot that's being said about social media being assignment editors for many national and local journalists nowadays. While social media can be helpful at times with some things as a local journalist, like I said a bit ago social media is not the end-all, be-all to be fully informed about the inner workings of the community. That comes from publications like ours."

I couldn't have said it better. Kudos to Robert for a helluva speech, and much thanks to those that consider their weekly newspaper a must read.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

The recent decision by Allegan County Commissioners to change home delivered meal providers for The Olds caught my attention.

My first thought came from a line from the film "The Godfather" when one of the mobsters ordered a hit on a rival. "It's business; it's nothing personal."

No, I'm not comparing the commissioners to gangsters, or anything like it. It's a line that frequently comes to mind whenever there is any sort of change. As a card-carrying member of The Olds, I have the right to do that. It means we all must make painful decisions based on economics or good business sense, even when people still get hurt.

A friend from Pier Cove area delivered Meals on Wheels for years. He liked the job, quickly learning the best part came from connections he made at each stop. Friendship formed. He looked forward to seeing people on his route looking forward his knock at the door.

When we turn off the electronic noise and prattle, the most important part of our lives will always be these connections with people.

They come in all sizes, from the big ones like family members and maybe a couple from our pasts, to very short interactions, like someone saying hello or giving a compliment as we pass them on the street. They send the message, "I see you." Good short-term connections hang in our minds for years, yielding smiles as dividends.

My father taught my sister and me that we were to be polite and remember to speak to people. Some nights overdinner he didn't ask what we learned in school, but who we spoke to today.

I remember mentioning names like my teacher, our principal, classmates and so on. More than once he would ask, "Didn't see the janitor today? What about the ladies running the lunchroom?" The message was clear: they were just as important as the principal.

"Times are different now" is true if you still think time is solely a linear progression. Human connections are just as important now.

Remember fax machines? Back then they seemed magical. After making interesting electronic noises, which we called their "mating calls," we could send printed messages across phone lines to anywhere in the world. We could stay in touch without having to see each other; an introvert's dream. It was efficient for business, but soon became too efficient.

A United Airlines TV commercial showed a sales manager teillng his team about how they had lost a valuable client because no one flew cross country see him. With that, he handed out airline tickets for staff to visit their clients in person. "I'm going to see that fellow we lost, he went on.

It wasn't just the fax machine, internet, lately AI. For the past 25 we've seen further isolation and separation. We became worried about strangers, with the mantra, "Stranger Danger!" we think at once when we meet them.

Airline travel became abysmal long before the security checks. The Covid epidemic boxed us off and in. At least the last three national elections made us cut ties as well.

Political parties became a litmus test as to who was allowed in homes and even churches. All those roads lead to loneliness, root cause of most terminal illness. Lonely people self-sabotage until they're destructive.

Many governments and institutions find it in their best interests for us to stay isolated. When coffee was introduced to Europe, tipplers switched from their morning pint of beer to hot beans, drinking it for the effect. The taste was as best acquired but a cup or two turned on the juice. They thought and talked more, a big change From mind-dulling booze flagons.

England's King Charles I feared his ordinary subjects might have and exchange ideas with others. Both he and a distant cousin who was King of Sweden briefly tried to outlaw and close coffee shops.

Tell someone they can't have their favorite drink, and remember the Boston Tea Party? It led to a pushback, and then rebellion. Early in 1650, those coffee-drinking people lopped off Charles's head.

Cold War U.S. Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) puffed up fear of communism to a point where even grown-up kids were terrified Russky spies were in every classroom or other place of gathering. Fluoride in our drinking water? It became too much.

Red-baiter McCarthy came to a bitter end, and The Olds then wondered how one man could turn us against each other.

During the 1960s Civil Rights battles, authorities did not want minorities to convene in march and protest. Those were busted up with billy clubs and attack dogs.

The current administration has used similar tactics to intimidate minorities suspected of being here illegally. Plus they mock and laugh at the No Kings marches.

Holding, then preserving power can become addictive. Protect the institution first, which means dividing those you perceive threaten you and it.

There's no escape from this muddle in the middle. So let's beat them at their own game. If you feel lost and alone, my father had the right answer: If you want friends, be a friend. Make the first move, extend your right hand, smile, speak. Seize the day!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Autocrats, Yes Hippocrites

Dear Editor:

The recent "No Kings" gatherings are good reminders of how fortunate we are to be Americans with an always imperfect government that not only still functions, but it also provides the safety and inspiration for such so-called "organic" events. The irony is that attempts to compare today's arm chair dissent with the high risk dissent of 1776 are convincing proof that America at present is anything but a dictatorship.

When was the last time you saw handheld "No Supreme Leader" signs in Pyongyang or "No Czar" signs in Moscow? How many of the Iranians murdered this past January in Tehran BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT were carrying "No Ayatollah" signs? I have never seen pictures of an American flag being flown proudly in the Gaza Strip, but I saw too many Hamas flags being flown over tent encampments on universities across our state--to include one allowed outside of Haenicke Hall on the WMU campus--in 2024. How would an actual tyrannical king tolerate such displays?

The insulated folks recently protesting President Trump's sometimes brash--but necessary--attempts to repair the damage done by Biden and Obama ("I have a pen and I will use it!") all looked well-fed, well-clothed, well-shod and very safe. Speaking of well-shod, I wonder how many of the comfortable sneakers and boots worn by the pre-fab banner-waving No Kings protesters were made in China?

Perhaps if one is truly concerned about civil rights s/he/they [sic] might make better efforts to not provide resources for the worst of civil rights violators, the CCP. Stop buying Made in Communist China shoes, clothes, electronics, phones, toys and books manufactured by truly hard-done-by workers. The ultimate irony is that more than half of the Bibles sold in the US today have been printed in a country that will only allow its citizens to read its corrupted version of the Bible. Read the labels before buying, folks.

We witnessed fabricated and subsidized outrage by "mostly peaceful" rioters in 2020 after a heavily medicated--and sainted--George Floyd died while being restrained in Minneapolis. In 2025, in the same city, we saw violent dissent by more "organic" protestors who were attempting to prevent bona fide law enforcement from arresting illegal alien criminals. If the "No Kings" folks were honest, they should be carrying "No Fuehrer" signs to complement the unfair comparisons of their current targets to Hitler, Nazis, Fascists and Stormtroopers. If they were honest, they would take a deeper dive into history and see if Beer Hall Putsch, Krystalnacht, Reichstag Fire and Final Solution allow them to continue the ersatz parallels they are trying to make.

And yes, I am well-aware that January 6, 2021 was another "organic" demonstration which should never have happened, and I believe that many of the perps were guilty of, at the very least, trespass and vandalism. Sadly, however, unless all of the information about that dark day in our history is revealed, we will never know the full truth about it.

If only the energy generated by today's "Minutemen" who declare that "the fascists are coming!" could be channeled into the real injustices of voting irregularities, illegal immigrant crime, abortion and welfare fraud, then their protestations would be credible. Until then, may God continue to bless us by providing a haven where Life, Liberty and a Pursuit--NOT GUARANTEE--of Happiness allows even the misguided a platform to protest. Happy Bisesquicentennial Birthday America!! And many more……..

Jack Bley

State Representative Rachelle Smit's Politics and the Save Act

Dear Editor:

State Representative Rachelle Smit co-authored a request by letter to then Attorney General Pam Bondi to have the present DOJ take over elections in Michigan. This request (letter) was in November 2025.

The Heritage Foundation, a Republican Database, has reported that the last 1 billion votes casted found 77 cases of attempted fraud (.0000000077 of 1 per cent). This is hardly a case for alarm.

Representative Smit's focus was one of her deceased in-laws remained on voter rolls. This occurred in Martin, Michigan when she was serving as clerk, and now has accused the Secretary of State of Michigan of corruption. This is totally anecdotal and something that (almost never) occurs. Many politicians use an anecdote to further their stance even when they know it's not true.

Representative Rachelle Smit should spend her time focusing on her duties to represent citizens in the 43rd House district. It appears her love for a corrupt administration in Washington is doing her no favors. The federal government does not have a say in elections. Each state has specific rules and regulations for elections. An elected official should know this.

The Republican "Save Act" is designed to disenfranchise millions of voters, the majority being people of color and women. One provision would be for voters to possess a passport. There are 146 million voters who do not have a passport. The "Save Act" would make it more difficult for tens of millions of spouses who have changed their names through marriage to vote. Republicans do not want women to vote in large numbers because women turn out to vote at a higher rate than men. Reputable politicians should want more citizens to vote not fewer.

The "Save Act" wants to require in person registration that would force 60 million rural voters to travel far from their homes to become eligible to vote. The "Save Act" is becoming a poll tax in order to cast a ballot and vote. The lies politicians use to defend the "Save Act" need to be called out. The "Save Act" would do nothing than legalize voter suppression.

A political party that openly attempts to stop citizens from their constitutional right to vote, no longer legislates using honorable and virtuous means. Their constituents are the least of their concern!

Mark Austin Hopkins

Donnie playing with economy like it's a toy

Editor.

Word has it that when he was growing up Donnie was an unruly child.

He would often break his toys and bully his playmates.

But he always had his father ready to step in and be there to buy new toys and there were plenty of new friends except when he got more than a little out of control and had to be sent off to a military school where parents pay a lot of money for good grades and behavior reports.

And who knows how much it cost his father to get him into a top school of finance where following graduation his broken toys now included casinos and hotels. But there was still a daddy waiting with his checkbook to bail him out and buy new friends.

Now his toys are bigger still: the American economy, the Middle East, the global economy, a multi-national alliance, world trade.

Name it and he's there to break it.

But, where's daddy?

Tired of the broken toys it is now up to the bullied playmates to fix them.

Is the global flow of oil all clotted up? Let those who need it go get it. Not his problem.

He's off to the next shiny object .

Oh! Look over there!

Let's go play with Cuba!

David Ohmart.

Do the Local Thing

Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

Shop Local

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

© The Allegan County News, 2026

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $70 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postal Publication No. 013-700. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

the UE Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

© The Union Enterprise, 2026

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $70 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

R. Michael Wilcox, Publisher
Jason Wesseldyk, High School Sports Editor
Julie Hotchkiss, Accounts Receivable
Matt Gliwa, Graphic Artist
Jordan Wilcox, IT Support
Lynn Jensen - Sales

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Member

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Obituaries

Donald Jerry Dam

Donald Jerry Dam, 89, of Allegan, MI passed away Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at Alamo Nursing Home in Kalamazoo. Born October 11, 1936 in Kalamazoo, he was the son of the late Albert and Mildred (Commans) Dam and was the husband of Sally Jo (Baas) Dam. Donald was a life member of First Reformed Church in Allegan. He had worked forty-four years for Delano Service, Inc. prior to retirement. Donald and Sally were also the owners and operators of D & S Cleaning.

Donald Jerry Dam

In addition to Sally, his wife of over sixty-four years, Donald is survived by his children, Lori (Neil) Ott, Steven Dam and Kevin (Khristy) Dam; grandchildren, Chelsea Baker, Abigail Martin, Olivia Ott, Mikaela Dam, Emilia Dam, Kiera Dam, Payton Dam, Parker Dam and Gavyn Tungate; and great-grandchildren, Ariana Miller, Oliver Baker, Boston Baker and Kaydin Tungate. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Joyce (Robert) Bradshaw.

A celebration of Donald's life will take place on Friday, May 22, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Allegan Township Hall.

Mary Anne Harsh, PhD

Mary Anne Harsh, PhD, passed away on April 11 at the Ohio State University Medical Center. She was 79 years old.

Born in December 1946 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Fred B. and Marian A. (Waller) Roberson, Mary Anne spent her early years on the family farm near Plainwell, Michigan. A self-proclaimed tomboy, she learned to drive a tractor at 12, explored the outdoors with abandon and accumulated a few memorable injuries along the way, including a broken arm courtesy of her brother Jim and a rickety hay wagon (he was not pleased). Those early years on the farm shaped a woman who would spend her whole life learning, creating and growing things.

She married her high school sweetheart, Michael A. Harsh, on the longest night of the year in 1966, and the two spent 60 years building a life together. After Mike returned from his service in Vietnam, they made their first home in eastern Massachusetts, where Mary Anne continued her teaching career in English Language Arts. It was during those years that she and Mike discovered a shared love of antiquing — a hobby that became something closer to a calling, taking them across the country by van, filling their home and lives with beautiful things and even better stories. That wandering spirit eventually led them to Knox County, Ohio, where in the winter of 1973-74 they put down roots and purchased the first of two historic homes they would lovingly tend over the years. The van trips continued. Knox County just became the place they always came home to.

Somewhere along that journey, they decided parenthood was for them, and their daughter Molly arrived in May of 1977. Mary Anne was a "modern mother," and took her young daughter on the road with her on many of her antique adventures in those early years.

Mary Anne was many things: scholar, teacher, gardener, crafter, beader, seamstress, wood-turner, fly-tier and devoted member of the Utica Coffee Club. She was polymath by nature and incessantly curious by temperament. At age 50 she began studying French language and literature with a passion that led her to earn multiple advanced degrees, culminating in her PhD from THE Ohio State University, which she completed at the age of 60. She went on to teach French at Bishop Hartley High School, The Ohio State University, St. Michael's College and Bowling Green State University. She did not take retirement gently.

In earlier chapters of her life, she founded the Enoch Thompson House, a garden and flower design business in Knox County where she sold perennials and herbs -- and dispensed words of wisdom with every purchase. Her garden was, in many ways, an extension of herself.

Even after a surgical accident left her unable to walk, Mary Anne never stopped planning. There was always a next adventure, a next project, a next thing to learn or make or tend. That spirit--restless, generous, and deeply alive--never left her.

Mary Anne is survived by her husband and best friend of over six decades, Michael Harsh; her daughter Molly Gutridge and son-in-law Matt; and her seven-year-old grandson Liam, who no doubt inherited at least a little of her curiosity and stubbornness. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Edith (Clint Wheeler) Harsh and brother-in-law William Harsh, both of Michigan. Her memory is cherished by many nieces, nephews, dear friends, a number of "adopted" kids, and the former students who will never forget her.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother James Roberson and his wife Debra; and her beloved in-laws, Dala and Cliff Harsh.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to the NCCU team at OSU Medical Center for their extraordinary care and humanity, and to Heather Duffey, who cared for Mary Anne with such devotion over these past two years.

A joyful celebration of Mary Anne's life will be held at the Kokosing Nature Preserve, 10620 Quarry Chapel Road, Gambier on Saturday, May 2 at Noon. The family will receive friends beginning at 11:00 a.m. and you are invited to come with stories and memories of Mary Anne that help capture her amazing spirit. She did NOT want a funeral (and she never liked going to them) so please no mourning attire! The family will accompany Mary Anne to her final resting place in a private observance.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorial donations to the Utica Area Foundation Fund at the Licking Co. Foundation or the Philander Chase Conservancy at Kenyon College.

Debara Kay Ulrich

Debara Kay Ulrich, age 66, of Gobles, passed away on February 14, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on July 11, 1959, to Gary and Nola (Kirvan) Harps. After graduating class of 77 from Plainwell High School, she married the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Rick, with whom she shared over 48 years of a devoted marriage. While in high school she worked at Burger Chef and later years at Movie Magic in Gobles.

Deb was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend. She will be fondly remembered by all who knew her for her love of antiques, her visits to casinos, her passion for trivia, and her enjoyment of movies. She went all out decorating her house for all holidays and could be found at all her daughters' and grandsons' sports and band activities.

Debara Kay Ulrich

She is survived by her husband Rick, daughters Jessica (Aaron) Coash, Jacque (Norm) Hotrum, and Kimberly (Justin) Avery; four grandsons Mel & Sam Coash, Liam & Brody Avery, and her parents, Gary and Nola Harps. Siblings Karyn Morris & Gus Harps. Brother in-laws Doug (Sue) Dehaan, Jeff Dehaan as well as numerous relatives and friends who will miss her dearly.

Preceded by in-laws Harold and Leona Dehaan and Robert Ulrich.

A celebration of Deb's life will be held in July.

Tom Shumaker

Tom Shumaker, age 82, passed away March 31, 2026 at Thurston Woods Village Nursing Home.

Tom was born in Russell, Kansas June 28, 1943. After high school he attended Kansas University and then moved to Washington, DC where he attended American University and received a Juris Doctorate Degree.

Tom Moved to Sturgis in 1969 to work for the Dresser Law Firm before opening his own law office in 1975. In 1989 he was elected Probate Judge for St. Joseph County and served 24 years.

Tom Shumaker

During his judicial tenure, he worked on many committees in the county and state and received many recognitions and awards.

He is survived by his wife: Judy of 50 years. Also surviving are three sons: Travis Shumaker of Kirkland, Washington, Shawn Flock (Lori) of Hesperia, Michigan, and Christopher Flock (Monica) of St. Joseph, Michigan; 5 grandchildren: Cali Flock, Orrin Flock, Harlow Flock, Tegan Shumaker, and Beckett Shumaker.

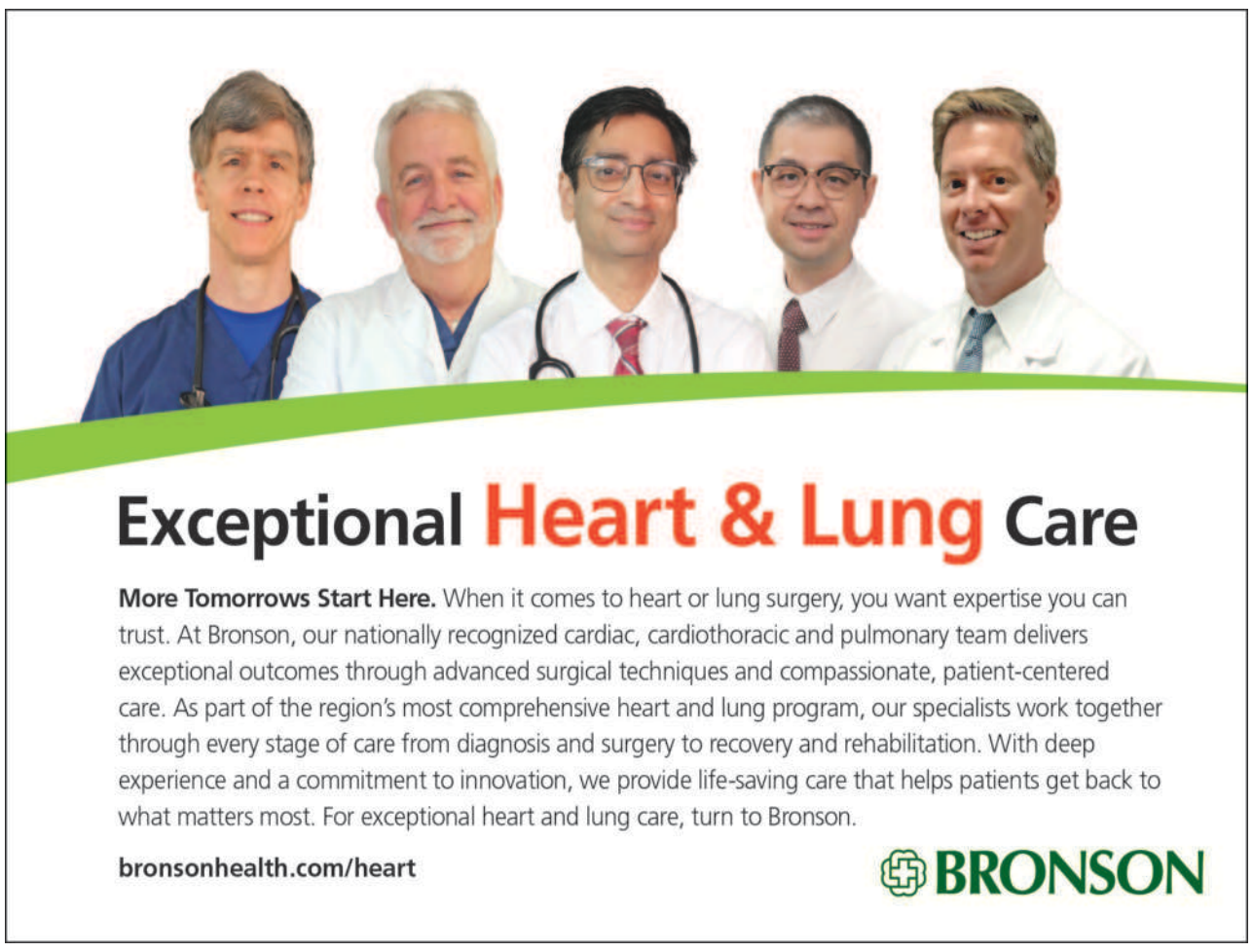
There will be no visitation or services as cremation has taken place. The Hackman Family Funeral Homes of Sturgis have been entrusted with the arrangements.

Gale F. Morrie

Gale passed away Thursday, April 9, 2026 at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo. Gale was born June 1st, 1940 in Chicago, daughter of the late Francis and Irene Morrie. Gale was well know by many for her lifelong career in the grocery business. She had worked for Hardings and finally Town and Country in Allegan until her retirement. Gale loved to cook and cherished time spent with her family and friends. She especially enjoyed the many children whom they cared for over the years. Surviving is her significant other, Peter Forstner whom she spent the past 55 years with; her brother Lynn Morrie; nieces and nephews, Jeff (Renae) Morrie, Ami Morrie-Coffman and Tony Morrie; great nieces and nephews, Brianne Coffman, Caleb Priebe, McKenna Morrie and Jackson Morrie along with several great-great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Wynn Morrie. The family will meet friends on Thursay, April 16th from 11am until time of funeral service, 1pm at the Bloomingdale Chapel, D. L. Miller Funeral Home, www.dlmillerfuneralhome.com. Interment will follow in Blessed Sacrament Cemetery, Allegan. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Elizabeth "Liz" K. Morrie Scholarship fund through the Allegan County Community Foundation or Wings of Hope Hospice. Arrangement entrusted to D.L.Miller Funeral Home, Bloomingdale Chapel.

Gale F. Morrie

E-editions of favorite local newspapers are available now! Go to wilcoxnewspapers.com to find out more!



Driver's License Restoration | Drunk Driving & Criminal Defense
It's a Process... We Can Help! | "Friends... Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty!"
Law Office of
FREDERICK J. TAYLOR
269-388-6060 • 1-800-250-FRED

Fifth Annual ALEgan Craft Beer Fest Returns May 16th

By Gari Voss

Join the Allegan Jaycees for the Fifth Annual ALEgan Craft Beer Fest at the Allegan County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 2-8pm. At this time, it is not too late to become a sponsor that helps this festival grow and gives back to the Allegan area.

In partnership with Tantrick Brewing Co., this year's festival features 16+ West Michigan breweries, each bringing their finest selections, along with food by The Mobile Crave and the Allegan Band boosters, plus a DJ and live music from 5-7pm featuring the high-energy Jacks Label Maker out of Caledonia, MI.

"The Allegan Jaycees are excited to continue our partnership with our friends from Tantrick Brewing Company and build on a successful event," said Ben Jalbert, an Allegan Jaycee. "Organizers have crafted this event in a way that's exciting for beer lovers but also welcoming to those who've never attended a beer fest before."

Jaycee State President Kyra Dutkiewicz explained, "The ALEgan Beerfest is designed to bring the community together to celebrate local craft beer, support small businesses, and create a fun and welcoming event in Allegan. It's a chance for people to experience breweries from across West Michigan, enjoy food and entertainment, and support a great cause."

Tickets are available now at https://alleganjaycees.com/products/2026-alegan-beer-fest. All attendees must be 21 or older—no exceptions.

Participating breweries include: Tantrick Brewing Co., Schaendorf Brewing Co., and Heronmark of Allegan, 707 Winery and Brewery (Caledonia), Bier Distillery (Comstock Park), Doster Brewing Company (Doster), Oakestown Brewery (Grandville), Apoptosis Brewing Co. and One Well Brewing (Kalamazoo), Rusty Rocket Brewing (Pullman), Harbor Light Brewery (South Haven), Useless Creatures Brewing Company (Three Rivers), Sister Lakes Brewing Co. (Dowagiac), Silver Harbor (St. Joseph), Trail Lake Brewing Co. (Allendale) and more.

The Allegan Jaycees, founded in 1939, develop young leaders through community service and civic engagement. Their fundraising efforts support local programs, including community projects and assistance for families in need.

"Proceeds from the event go back into the community through the Allegan Jaycees," explained Dutkiewicz. "Funds help support local programs, community events, volunteer efforts, and improvements that benefit the Allegan area. Throughout the year, the Allegan Jaycees host community events, fundraisers, and volunteer initiatives that support local families and bring people together. These annual events help us raise funds, build connections, and make a lasting impact in Allegan. Our big projects are our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, the ALEgan Beerfest, Bridgefest, Pride, Allegan County Fair Concert Beverage Pouring, Adopt a Family, and more.

For additional information contact: Landria Johnson, Allegan Jaycees at 269.615.4405 or alleganjaycees1939@gmail.com.

Allegan County Photo Contest opens

By Gari Voss

The Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) reminds all photographers that the Allegan County Photo Contest began Monday, April 13, 2026! This is a wonderful opportunity for those with an artistic lens to capture the wonderful visuals around Allegan County and submit them for review and votes.

"We had such a great time in the years past photo contests that we're bringing it back!" shared Bri Wright. "We loved seeing Allegan County through your eyes and received so many amazing photos. Help us showcase the **#AmazingAlleganCounty** that we are lucky to work, live, and play in!"

Each picture holds a story that can highlight people, places, and things in Allegan County. The wonderment of natural landscapes, lakes, forests, wildlife, events, people, and so on can be captured and submitted through April 26, 2026.

The process to participate is simple. Take pictures then go to https://woobox.com/jau2em and upload a favorite photo. Once the photo is approved by the ACCF staff, it will be uploaded to the Gallery.

Beginning April 29, 2026, at noon and ending May 3, 2026, at 8pm, the public will be able to view the photos in the Gallery and "like" their favorite photo.

The ACCF Facebook page will have updates and reminders with winners being announced on May 5, 2026, and contacted via email to receive a $50 gift card to a local business and to direct a $500 grant to their favorite Allegan County nonprofit.

The voting categories this year are:

Public Choice – most votes during the voting period

Staff Choice – selected by ACCF staff and board

Artist Choice – chosen by a panel of local artists

For additional information, please contact Bri at bwright@alleganfoundation.org.

Photographers are invited to submit favorite photos to the Allegan County Photo Contest between Monday, April 13 and Sunday, April 26, 2026. Uploaded photos will be added to the Gallery by the ACCF staff. The public can view the Gallery and vote for their favorite photo from April 29th to May 3rd.

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
Service Directory Guide
Find the Services and Businesses You Need!

PEERLESS Auto Glass LLC
616-930-7944
Monday - Friday 8am-5pm
Allegan
www.peerlessautoglass.com
25 years experience
Serving West Michigan Area
Mobile service to your home or work
Works with all insurance companies

River Bend YOGA
211 E. Bannister St. Ste A-1, Plainwell
(269) 512-5039 • info@rbyogastudios.com

Naturally Grounded
Naturopathic Wellness
Naturally Grounded is a naturopathic wellness practice located in Hamilton, MI
4754 136th Avenue, Hamilton MI 49419
Phone: 269-550-3168
Website: www.ng-wellness.com

TREE TECH L.L.C.
Top Soil/Bobcat Service
Tree/Lot Clearing
Tree Removal
Tree Pruning
Top Soil Installation
Stump Grinding
Firewood Log Loads
JOSEPH BRENNAN, Owner
616.990.TREE (8733)
TreeTechMI.com
5863 Old Allegan Rd.
Hamilton, MI 49419
officetreetech@gmail.com

DAMBER TREE & YARD SERVICE LLC
* *Fully Licensed and Insured* *
Call us today at (269) 251-5602
or Email at dambertys@gmail.com
SERVICES INCLUDE:
- Full Tree Removal
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rototilling
- Mowing
- Gravel Driveway Work
- Mulching
- Trash Removal
- Retaining Walls
And So Much More !!!
www.dambertys.com

Bob Tolsma Plumbing
Bob Tolsma
4215 Lincoln Rd
Holland Michigan 49423
Office (616) 836-1197
bob@tolsmaplumbing.com
• New Construction
• Remodels Insured
• Water Heaters
• Water Softeners
• Water & Sewer hookups
• 24 hr emergency

We Have The POWER To Make Things Better!
GENERAC
Best Installers • Best Warranty • Best Prices
Mr. Electric a neighborly company
24 HOUR SERVICE
(269) 686-0014 • (269) 375-0520
www.mrelectric.com

Rent a Water Softener for $35/mo.
Add an RO for only $5/mo more.
* Call for details
Gordon WATER SYSTEMS
269-382-0068

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICES
We design to fit your lifestyle.
269-639-9000
www.LandscapeDS.com
A Bakker Family Business since 1968
Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control
Your Local Lawn & Landscape Experts

LONE WOLF PEST CONTROL AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE
AFFORDABLE Pest Extermination and Nuisance Wildlife Removal
Local, Prompt, Licensed and Insured.
What's Buggin you? Call 269-400-3888

STOWAWAY SELF STORAGE
CLOSE TO HOME STORAGE
Conveniently located in Downtown Fennville
First Month FREE
269-225-3973
353 E. 1st St, Fennville
www.stowawaystoragemi.com

TIM ROGERS PLUMBING
SEWER AND DRAIN • PLUMBING • WATER HEATERS
WATER SERVICE & SEWER MAINS • HEATING AND COOLING
Now Licensed to Pump Septic Tanks
TIM ROGERS
PHONE: 269-673-3651
WEB: TIMROGERSPLUMBING.COM

To Advertise in the Allegan County News
Service Directory Guide
Call
269-673-5534

AREA ALLEGAN REAL ESTATE AGENCY
WE BUY HOUSES/LAND
Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent
Residential • Commercial
Vacant Land • Land Development
Now taking listings at 4%
MyStateMLS
Lou Jennings
Real Estate Broker
Property Manager
269-673-4565
269-673-4565
269-910-4206
area89@frontier.com
840 Marshall Street (M-89)
Allegan, Mi. 49010

The All-New AUTO WEST
FREE BRAKE INSPECTION at the all-new AUTO WEST
USED CAR SUPER STORES
1208 M-89, Plainwell - 269-685-9197
www.GOAUTOWEST.com

Audition open for Seedfolks, an Allegan Food Alliance production

By Gari Voss

The Allegan Food Alliance is working to bring *Seedfolks* to life—a powerful story about a diverse community transformed through a shared garden created from a vacant lot. Directed by Laura Beckwith, the play is based on the novella *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman set in the Gibbs neighborhood of Cleveland. The story unfolds through a series of individual voices as neighbors - young and old, longtime residents and newcomers - step forward to share a piece of their story.

The production will be staged as a spoken-word (Readers Theater) performance, with each character telling his or her own story in turn.

The Allegan Food Alliance is currently seeking community members to take part in the production. No prior acting experience is required. They are simply looking for people willing to lend their voice to the telling of these stories. Diversity is a key factor, so it is important to find actors of different nationalities and ages.

Set in a rundown neighborhood in Cleaveland, the plot unravels through a dozen characters, which include a 9 year old Vietnamese girl, an elderly Romanian woman, a young (20ish) Black bodybuilder, an elderly Mexican man, who is grandfather (or great uncle) to a young boy, a Korean shop owner, a British woman, who caretakes a wealthy, disabled man in a wheelchair, a janitor, a teenage girl, and the list goes on.

Following the performance, the Food Alliance plans to gather the cast and audience for a shared, farm-to-table style meal and a community conversation. This is an opportunity to reflect together on questions like: Who do we welcome to the table? What does it mean to belong? And how might we grow stronger communities, just as we grow food, side by side?

Organizer Mary Colborn explained, "We also welcome interest from local farmers, growers, and food businesses who may wish to be part of the event through food, presence, or other forms of participation."

The date of the auditions will be set in May with performances tentatively planned for late July or early August, with more details to come.

Those interested in participating or in learning more are encouraged to reach out to maryacolborn@alleganfoodalliance.org, cindykmeyer@alleganfoodalliance.org, or 269-355-1335.

This project is part of the Come to the Table initiative and is rooted in the belief that something meaningful can grow when people come together.

Colborn requests, "Please, if you haven't already, we ask you to complete the countywide food system survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFA-CTTT2025. Your voice matters."

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

The White House just announced that as part of our nation's 250th anniversary celebration, as a change in tradition, the President's signature would now be added to our money. What are your thoughts?

-Man near the hardware store in Douglas: Rolled his eyes and said, "Same old, same OLD Trump."

-Couple, same location; Woman: "I think it is a good thing. Some day, people will remember who was our President then, you know, when the country turned 250 years old." Man: "Far as I'm concerned, he deserves it. He's done a lot for our country, making it Number One again!"

-Young woman and children in front of the Fennville grocery store: "It doesn't make no matter to me. I'm going to get some unused bills to keep for the kids for keep sakes."

-Younger man in front of the Blue Goose, "Hasn't he got anything better to do? You know, like ending this)_(*&-up war in Iran or getting the TSA situation fixed, or the cost of gas? Now, he wants to have his name on all the money. He is one)(*&^-up dude."

-Man in front of the Huntington Bank in Allegan: "Yeah, I heard. I'm going to refuse taking anything with his signature on it."

-Friend with him: "Yeah? I told my wife that I'll take 'em, 'cause otherwise it only messes up the clerks, but hold on to them to change 'em at the bank. I don't want them."

-Woman in front of the Allegan Public Library: "What difference does it make? I can't do anything about it. Maybe they'll become valuable someday. I don't know."

-Another woman, same location; Shakes her head. "He's more of a two-year-old than a grown person, much less a president. He always thinks he gets to have his way - on everything."

-Man near A-Tech: "I got bigger things to be concerned about than him and his silly antics."

-Older man near the Allegan Post Office: "I thought there's a law a person has to be dead for five years before their picture can be on a stamp. That's what I was told, anyway. There's no law stopping him from having his name on money."

-A friend with him: "My wife said it's too bad he didn't want to have his face stamped onto a penny."

-First man: "He cancelled the penny, you know."

-Second man: "That's why she thinks he should have his picture on it." Both laugh.

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
Service Directory Guide
Find the Services and Businesses You Need!

Upscale Mercantile
UPSCALE MERCANTILE
161 N. Blue Star Hwy., Douglas MI
www.upscalemercantile.com
Open Thursday through Monday
Vintage Furniture
Vintage Barware
Home Goods
Gourmet Foods
Gifts
One-of-a-kind items

WET BASEMENT? WET CRAWL SPACE?
We fix it right! We fix it for life!
Dry basements since 1987
RJ WATERPROOFING
269-337-7660

Wendt's Fence
Installation & Repair
269-998-1532
www.wendtsfence.com
Find us on

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
A Straight Flush Beats A Full House
Residential & Commercial
1148 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com

KLC
M-89 SELF-STORAGE
SECURITY-LIGHTING
(269)-543-4757
NEW BUILDING OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
6464 124th AVE. FENNVILLE, MI 49408

Third Coast Garage Door
Third Coast Garage Door
Garage Doors
Openers
Service/Parts
Custom Installation
Over 20 Years Experience
Jake LaRoy-Owner
thirdcoastgaragedoor@gmail.com
Office-269-346-0803
Cell-734-777-5163
www.thirdcoastgaragedoor.com

THE WRIGHT FENCE
The Fencing Professionals
Schedule your FREE estimate today!
Wright Fence
900 E. Bridge St.,
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-806-7583
www.TheWrightFence.com
25 Years of Experience

CL KRUITHOFF BUILDING CO.
NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES
GARAGES, BARNDOS & POLE BARNS
Chad L. Kruithoff, President
SINCE 1998
CLKruithoff@yahoo.com
269 217-3850
Insured
Free Quotes
WWW.POLE-BARNS.COM

BONIFACE
Heating and Air Conditioning Inc.
www.bonifaceheating.com
bryant Factory Authorized Dealer
961 124th Avenue
Shelbyville
269-672-7914

NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER
ASE CERTIFIED
Full Service
Car Repair & Tires
We buy and sell used cars
24 Months 24,000 MILES
Cars & More LLC
569 10th Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 501-5763
CarsAndMoreLLCPlainwell@gmail.com
www.CarsAndMoreLLCPlainwell.com

H&H AUTO BODY, LLC
Complete Collision Repair
Complete Collision Repair
Accepting ALL insurance estimates.
269-685-5832
745 N. Main Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
Mon-Thu 8am-5pm. Closed Fri
fax 269-685-5834

ACE
The helpful place.
PLAINWELL ACE HARDWARE
Screen/window Repair • Key Cutting • Live Bait
ECHO YETI CRAFTSMAN
135 N. Anderson St., Plainwell
269-225-1061

Tree Removal & Trimming
Stump Grinding
Fully insured
Over 30 years experience in tree work.
Very reliable and reasonable • Free estimates
RC TREE SERVICE
owned and operated by
Carl Sparks 269-377-0284 or 269-568-7231 Randy

Andy's Tree Service
Stump Grinding
Fully Insured
Firewood
Tree Trimming / Removal
Firewood
Lot Clearing
andybeelen@gmail.com
616-566-3386

To Advertise in the Allegan County News
Service Directory Guide
Call
269-673-5534

Felt Mansion in Laketown Township announces acts for free summer concerts

The stage has been set for summer nights in Laketown Township at the Felt Estate's 2026 concert series.

The free Thursdays at the Felt concerts are July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at the Carriage House, 6597 138th Ave., in view of the historic Felt Mansion. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Food and drink service begins at 6 p.m. Music begins at 7 p.m.

"This concert series is truly one of my favorite traditions at the Felt. There's something special about seeing families and neighbors gather on the lawn, enjoying music together," said Elizabeth McEwen, executive director of the Felt Estate.

The performers

The series begins July 2 with the Blue Water Ramblers who write their own songs and sing traditional music with modern themes -- the songs of Michigan, America and life. The group's repertoire comes from Michigan life experiences and the history of the Great Lakes.

On July 9, the band 6 Pak will perform. The high energy, all female rock 'n' roll band plays a variety of music from the 1960s, 1970s and more.

On July 16, Zion Lion, a band from the Kalamazoo area, performs a mix of reggae, African zouk, mucosa, soukous and some Afro-Latin influences.

On July 23, Lighting Matches, an alternative rock band based in Grand Rapids, brings driving guitar riffs and harmonies.

On July 30, Michigan native Kari Lynch returns to the Felt stage with her unique blend of Americana, pop-rock, alternative and singer-songwriter influences. Lynch recorded official music video for "Sleeping Just Fine" at The Felt Estate.

Spectators enjoy the summer weather during a Thursdays at the Felt Summer Concerts event at the Carriage House, 6597 138th Ave., in 2025.

Food, beverages and parking

This year's food vendor has not yet been announced.

No outside alcohol is allowed but outside food and sealed beverage containers are permitted. Coolers and bags will be checked. No pets except registered service dogs.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation will be announced by 5 p.m. via email and website www.feltmansion.org/current-events.

A $5 premium parking option close to the venue is available. Free parking is still available by the Felt Mansion solar array and at Shore Acres Park.

One of the sponsors this year is Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

"We're deeply thankful to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council for their support, and to our community for making this such a vibrant and welcoming event each year," McEwen said.

Follow Laketown Township on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Salute to Cannabis: A Growing Industry in Allegan County

In recent years, cannabis has become an increasingly visible part of Michigan's economic and regulatory landscape. As policies have evolved, so too has the presence of licensed businesses operating within communities across Allegan County. Today, cannabis is part of a broader conversation about agriculture, small business development, and responsible local oversight.

For many communities, the industry represents new opportunities. Licensed growers, processors, and retailers contribute to local economies by creating jobs, investing in property, and generating tax revenue that can support public services such as infrastructure, public safety, and community programs. Like other emerging industries, it continues to develop under a framework designed to ensure safety, accountability, and compliance with state and local regulations.

The individuals working within this field come from a wide range of backgrounds, including agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and logistics. Their work reflects many of the same principles found across other local industries, including attention to detail, adherence to strict guidelines, and a commitment to operating responsibly within the community. As with any business, success depends on professionalism, consistency, and trust.

April 20, often referred to as "4/20," has become widely recognized as a cultural marker associated with cannabis. In recent years, it has also taken on a more mainstream presence, with businesses and communities approaching the day in a measured and regulated manner. For many, it serves as a point of reflection on how the industry has evolved and how it fits into today's legal and economic landscape.

As Allegan County continues to grow and adapt, industries both traditional and new contribute to its overall strength. The cannabis sector represents one of many areas where change has brought new conversations and opportunities, while also reinforcing the importance of thoughtful local decision-making and community standards.

At Allegan County News, Commercial Record, and Union Enterprise, we recognize the role that emerging industries can play in shaping the future of our communities. Today, we salute the cannabis industry as part of that evolving landscape, and the individuals who work within it to operate responsibly and contribute to the local economy.

THIS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ACR Heating
Berkshire Hathaway
Bill Underdown / Century 21 Affiliated
Boniface
Brock Towing
Dunes View Kwik Shop
H & R Block
Hartman Ellis
Hopkins Propane
James Brandess Studios & Gallery, Inc
Kabri Martyniek / State Farm Insurance
Mark Bekken / Saugatuck Harbor Insurance
Rapa
Tammy Kerr / Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate
Uni-Pac
Waanders
Wrays

Graafschap Fire Department achieves Premier Blood Partner status

Graafschap Fire Department has been recognized by the American Red Cross as one of its Premier Blood Partners for 2026 for its support of the community and national blood supply.

Last year, Graafschap Fire Department helped the Red Cross collect 215 blood donations as part of its deep-rooted commitment to help save the lives of patients facing illnesses and injuries in this community and across the country.

"Graafschap Fire Department is proud to be a part of the Red Cross mission that helps ensure lifesaving blood is available for hospital patients in need," said Capt. Dave Grumney at Graafschap Fire Department. "Our organization shares that same humanitarian value to help our neighbors, and we are grateful for the opportunity to host blood drives that will do just that here in our community."

The Premier Blood Partners program is for top blood drive partners and offers recognition to the highest contributing sponsors, according to the Red Cross website.

Every day, volunteer blood and platelet donors across the country are needed to help save lives. Blood and platelets are needed for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease, according to the Red Cross.

Graafschap Fire Department started hosting blood drives in 2023.

Next blood drive

Graafschap Fire Department will host a Red Cross blood drive on May 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fire station, 4534 60th St. Community members are urged to come out and roll up a sleeve.

"Blood donations are essential to the health of our community. We encourage those who can join us to give the gift of life. The donation process only takes about an hour and can make an enormous difference for a patient battling illness or injury," said Grumney.

To schedule an appointment to donate blood at The Graafschap Fire Department, visit RedCrossBlood.org and under "Find a Blood Drive," enter "49423" and scroll to May 28, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Donors of all blood types are needed. Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors.

About the department

Graafschap Fire Department responds to fire, medical and other emergency situations in all of Laketown Township and part of Fillmore Township, and assists other agencies as needed.

The department also takes a proactive approach to prevention, offering free home safety inspections, free blood pressure checks on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the firehouse, 4534 60th St., and blood drives as part of its Community Risk Reduction Program.

Community Risk Reduction Program efforts totaled 154 hours in 2025 and included school visits, smoke alarm installations, weekly blood pressure screenings, home safety audits, CPR classes, and business pre-plans.

For more information, visit https://graafschapfire.com/

Wayland Road Work Approved

By Joseph Schultz

Last Monday night, the Wayland City Council reviewed bids for cold milling and paving projects on several well-traveled roads within the city. A-1 Asphalt and Black Gold Transport both submitted bids for the work.

The Main Street project involves milling and paving from south of Superior Street to Sycamore Street. Work on Superior Street will take place east of Main Street to Forrest Street. Additionally, Reno Drive will be patched from south of Superior to 133rd Avenue.

The decision to patch Reno Drive, rather than fully pave it, was made because of extensive road work already planned for the intersection of Reno and Superior next year. Patchwork will also be performed at the intersection of Main and Maple Streets.

The City Council approved A-1 Asphalt's bid of $268,000. While there is no official start date yet, the council was informed that A-1 expects to complete the entire project within one week.

Editor's Note: This story courtesy of Town-Broadcast

Karate academy celebrates 25 years of faith, discipline, and community impact

By Gari Voss & Geoffrey Spohn

Twenty-five years ago, a small martial arts program opened its doors in Allegan with a simple purpose: to teach, to serve, and to give something back. This year, the West Michigan Karate Academy is celebrating 25 years of serving the community through a unique blend of martial arts training, Christian ministry, and accessible instruction for families across the Allegan area.

Founded in April 2001 by Hanshi Geoffrey R. Spohn, the academy teaches Tatsu Te Ryū Karate-Dō, a modern blended martial arts system rooted in practical self-defense, personal discipline, and spiritual growth. What began as a local outreach did not remain local, and became a system. It became a ministry and over time, it became a legacy that now reaches across states and into other countries, while still operating out of the same community where it began.

"Twenty-five years is a big deal," said founder Hanshi (Kaiso) Geoffrey R. Spohn. "That doesn't happen unless something real is being built and people believe in it enough to carry it forward."

The foundation for those 25 years was laid long before the academy ever opened. Spohn's journey began in 1982 at just four years old. In 1988, after the loss of both of his parents, he and his brothers were taken in by their grandparents, June and Harry Smith of Allegan, and his life took its most defining turn. These two individuals' influence would shape not only who he became, but what he would one day create.

His grandmother, June, instilled in him a deep Christian faith; one rooted in compassion, resilience, and a belief that strength comes through God. His grandfather, Harry, a military veteran and former Allegan County sheriff, instilled discipline, structure, and a lifelong example of service to others. Those two influences did not compete. They combined.

"For 25 years, I've run this program out of respect for what my grandparents gave me," Spohn said. "My grandmother gave me faith. My grandfather gave me service. This is where those two things meet."

In honor of his grandfather, Spohn chose a path of public service, spending the past decade with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office, first as a Community Service Officer and now as an Administrative Specialist. It is not a role he uses to elevate himself, but one he views as a continuation of his grandfather's legacy.

In honor of his grandmother, he pursued ministry, becoming a licensed Christian minister and earning a bachelor's degree in Christian Education.

By April of 2001, those two callings had merged into a single purpose. The West Michigan Karate Academy, from its inception, was never designed to be just a martial arts school. It was created as a Christian outreach through martial arts, a place where training the body and strengthening the spirit would exist side by side.

Celebrating the achievement of the Black Belt is important. Ashton Young (left) and Connor Valenti (right) are with Hanshi Spohn to receive their black belts of Tatsu Te Ryu Karate-Do. Young, wishing to spread the service aspect, enlisted into the US Armed Forces and is currently attending boot camp. Valenti serves as an instructor and operations assistant at the West Michigan Karate Academy. Photo courtesy of G. Spohn

At the center of that mission is Tatsu Te Ryū Karate-Dō, a modern blended system developed by Spohn through decades of study and training. Drawing from Karate, Taekwondo, Aikido, and additional disciplines, the system was designed to address a common limitation found in many martial arts, that practitioners often become highly effective in one range of combat, but limited in others.

Tatsu Te Ryū Karate-Dō was built to bridge those gaps. It incorporates striking, blocking, and close-range engagement, allowing students to function across distances rather than within a single specialization. The goal is not aggression, but preparedness, developing the ability to protect oneself while maintaining control and discipline.

"Martial arts aren't meant to harm people," Spohn said. "They're meant to protect the learned and keep peace where it can be kept."

What distinguishes the system most, however, is not only its technical design but its spiritual foundation. Unlike many martial arts systems that incorporate Eastern religious philosophies, Tatsu Te Ryū Karate-Dō was intentionally structured around Christian theology. Scripture is not separate from the training. It is integrated into it.

Students progress through a 12-belt system representing the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, with each level carrying both a physical milestone and a spiritual meaning tied to scripture. The journey begins with the White Belt, representing purity and new life, inspired by Genesis 1:27. From there, students advance through Yellow (Romans 8:38–39), Purple (1 Peter 2:9), Green (Genesis 1:12), Blue (Acts 7:49), and Brown (John 3:16), each reinforcing growth in faith alongside skill. The final stages, Red and Black, carry deeper meaning, symbolizing Christ's sacrifice and the solemn weight of the crucifixion.

The progression reflects a journey: From purity and new life; To growth and identity; To understanding and purpose; And ultimately to sacrifice, commitment, and responsibility

At the center of that journey is a foundational verse:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

Within the academy, that message is not simply discussed, it is practiced, reinforced, and lived. That integration of faith and discipline becomes most visible in one of the system's most distinctive elements its Bible Kata.

These forms take traditional martial arts patterns and combine them with the spoken word of scripture. Students move through structured techniques while reciting passages such as Psalm 23, the Lord's Prayer, and the Armor of God.

In doing so, training becomes more than repetition. It becomes reflection. It becomes meditation. It becomes a connection between movement and meaning.

More than one-third of the system's curriculum consists of these original forms developed by Spohn over time as both the system and its purpose matured. Over the course of 25 years, that purpose has expanded in ways that reach far beyond Allegan.

Students who trained within the academy do not simply remain students. They become instructors. Those instructors have gone on to establish their own programs, carrying the system into new communities across multiple states including Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois, Nebraska, Florida, Alabama, New Mexico, and Maine. All of it traces back to one origin point. One program. One beginning.

"I lit the first flame," Spohn said. "Others took that flame and lit their own candles."

That continuation more than any statistic is what defines 25 years. Along the way, that work has been recognized at the national and international level.

Spohn has been inducted into multiple halls of honor, including recognition for lifetime contribution to the martial arts, as well as honors such as Master of the Year, Instructor of the Year, and System Founder of the Year. Yet even with that recognition, the academy's purpose has remained unchanged.

The West Michigan Karate Academy operates on an annual tuition of just $60 per year, approximately five dollars per month. In a time when martial arts training is often financially out of reach, that number stands as something almost unheard of and it is intentional.

"My grandparents struggled to keep me in martial arts," Spohn said. "I made the decision that if someone wants to train, they can train. No barriers."

That commitment has allowed individuals, families, and at-risk youth to step onto the mat many for the first time without financial limitation.

It is one of the defining reasons the academy has endured for 25 years. That mission is supported through the academy's partnership with Allegan Bible Church and Pastor Jon Gruss, whose continued support provides a home for the program. Without that foundation, Spohn acknowledges, the academy would not exist as it does today.

Yet, even after a quarter century, there are still members of the community who are just now learning it exists. Not because it has not been present, but because it has never sought the spotlight. For 25 years, it has as Spohn said, "We've simply done the work."

"Now, that milestone offers an opportunity to say something clearly," stresses Spohn. "The West Michigan Karate Academy is here. It has been here for 25 years. It has built something that has spread across states and into other countries. It has shaped students, created instructors, and remained grounded in faith, discipline, and service and is still open.

The academy offers year-round programming with open enrollment. Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Those interested can find the academy on Facebook, visit www.westmichigankarate.com, or call (269) 685-7806 for more information.

After 25 years, the accomplishment speaks for itself. But the purpose remains unchanged.

"If someone didn't know we were here before," Spohn said, "Now they do, and we welcome them with open hearts, open minds, and open doors."

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1849
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MI
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The "Michigan Zoning Enabling Act") the Fillmore Township Planning Commission will hold a meeting on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM, at the Fillmore Township Hall, 4219 52nd Street, Holland, MI 49423. The Planning Commission will hold public hearings to deliberate and potentially take action upon the following items:

1. A request from Jeffrey and Laura Geurink, property owners, to rezone the property at 5861 142nd Ave, also known as parcel number 03-06-018-013-01 from A-2 Restricted Agricultural to R-1 Residential. The property comprises approximately 4.49 acres and is legally described as COM S 1/4 COR TH S 89DEG 32' 08" E 720.16' TO POB TH N 00DEG 04' 25" W 355.22' TH S 89DEG 32' 08" E 607' TH S 00DEG 04' 25" E 355.22' TH N 89DEG 32' 08" W 607' TO POB 4.95 A. M/L SE 1/4 SEC 18 T4N R15W
2. Any other business that comes legally before the Planning Commission.

All interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting and provide comment on the above proposals. Public comments may also be received in writing until 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting by mailing or using the Township Drop Box, addressed to:

Fillmore Township Planning Commission
4219 52nd Street
Holland, MI 49423

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you plan to attend this hearing and are disabled requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township Clerk by calling 269-751-7655 as soon as possible.

John Yonker, Supervisor
Fillmore Township
269-751-7655

PHS Multicultural Club volunteers at Deacons Conference

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Before heading into Spring Break, members of the Plainwell High School Multicultural Club spent time giving back to the community.

The club members volunteered at the Deacons Conference, a local nonprofit organization that provides food, clothing and other assistance to individuals and families in need.

The service project was originally planned as part of the district's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January but was postponed and rescheduled.

While at the Deacons Conference, students helped sort and organize clothing for the organization's store and assisted with yard work to improve the grounds.

In addition to their hands-on efforts, students also gained a better understanding of the services the Deacons Conference provides to individuals and families in need at no cost.

"We're proud of our students for representing PHS with compassion, teamwork and a commitment to service," district officials said.

Following their volunteer work, the group spent time together sharing a meal.

Members of the Plainwell High School Multicultural Club took time to volunteer at the Deacons Conference, helping do such tasks as sorting and organizing clothes. (Photo provided)

OPS offers wide range of 'Big Dawg' summer camps

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

With summer right around the corner, Otsego Public Schools is once again offering its popular "Big Dawg" summer sports camps, giving young athletes a chance to stay active, build skills and have fun.

The camps, which begin in June and run throughout the summer, cover a wide variety of sports and age groups, providing opportunities for students from elementary through high school. Camps are led by Otsego coaches and athletes and are designed to help participants improve fundamentals while enjoying a positive, energetic environment.

Registration is now open, and organizers encourage families to sign up early as space may be limited for some camps.

The following camps are being offered this summer:

Girls Basketball

3rd-4th grade: June 8-11, 8:30-10 a.m., Dix Street gym; $40

5th-8th grade: June 15-18, noon to 3 p.m., OHS gym; $40

9th-12th grade: June 4-5 and June 8-9, 12:30-3 p.m., OHS gym; $20

Boys Basketball

1st-4th grade: June 15-18, 9-11 a.m., OHS gym; $40 (includes shirt)

5th-8th grade: June 15-18, noon to 3 p.m., OHS gym; $40 (includes shirt)

Football

1st-6th grade: June 4, 12:30-3:30 p.m., middle school practice field; $30 (includes shirt)

7th-8th grade: June 9-10, 5-7 p.m., OHS stadium; $40 (includes shirt)

Cross Country

2nd-6th grade: July 20-23, 9-11 a.m., OHS stadium; $30 (includes shirt)

Volleyball

K-8th grade: June 6, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

K-3rd grade: OMS gym

4th-5th grade: auxiliary gym

6th-8th grade: main gym

$40 (includes shirt)

Baseball

K-4th grade: June 15-17, noon to 1:30 p.m., OHS baseball fields; $40 (includes hat)

5th-8th grade: June 15-17, 9:30-11:30 a.m., OHS baseball fields; $50 (includes hat)

Softball

1st-8th grade: June 8-9, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Otsego softball field; $35 (includes shirt)

Soccer

1st-4th grade: June 22-24, 10-11:30 a.m., OHS stadium; $35 (includes shirt)

5th-8th grade: June 22-24, 5-7 p.m., OHS stadium; $45 (includes shirt)

Swim & Dive

See the Otsego Aquatics page for opportunities to enroll in swim and dive lessons or join the Otsego Swim Club.

Tennis

K-12th grade: July 6-10 and July 13-16, OHS tennis courts

K-5th grade: 4-5 p.m., $50

6th-8th grade: 5-6 p.m., $50

9th-12th grade: 6-7:30 p.m., $75

(All fees include a shirt)

Golf

6th-8th grade: June 8-10, 9-11 a.m., Shamrock Hills Golf Course; $30 (includes shirt)

Registration for all camps is being handled online through the district's website. Families should note that they may need to scroll through multiple athletic event listings to locate individual camps, and participants should register using their grade level for the 2026-27 school year.

Camp dates and times are subject to change, and registration typically closes one week prior to each camp.

For more information or to register, visit the Otsego Public Schools website at otsegops.org.

City of Plainwell warns residents of fraudulent email scam

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

City officials are warning residents and property owners to be on alert for a fraudulent email scam impersonating the City of Plainwell Planning Commission.

According to city officials, the email falsely claims to request payment for an "Application Review and Approval Fee" related to zoning or rental property use. The message appears to come from "City of Plainwell Planning Commission" but uses a non-government email address ending in "@usa.com."

Officials emphasized that the message is not legitimate and was not sent by the City of Plainwell or its Planning Commission.

"The City does not request payments via wire transfer through unsolicited email communications," officials said. "Nor does it require applicants to conduct official business exclusively by email in this manner."

The email instructs recipients to request wire transfer instructions to complete payment, which officials say is a common tactic used in financial scams.

City officials identified several red flags, including the use of a non-government email domain, urgent language requiring immediate payment and requests for payment via wire transfer.

Residents who receive a similar message are urged not to respond, send money or provide any financial information.

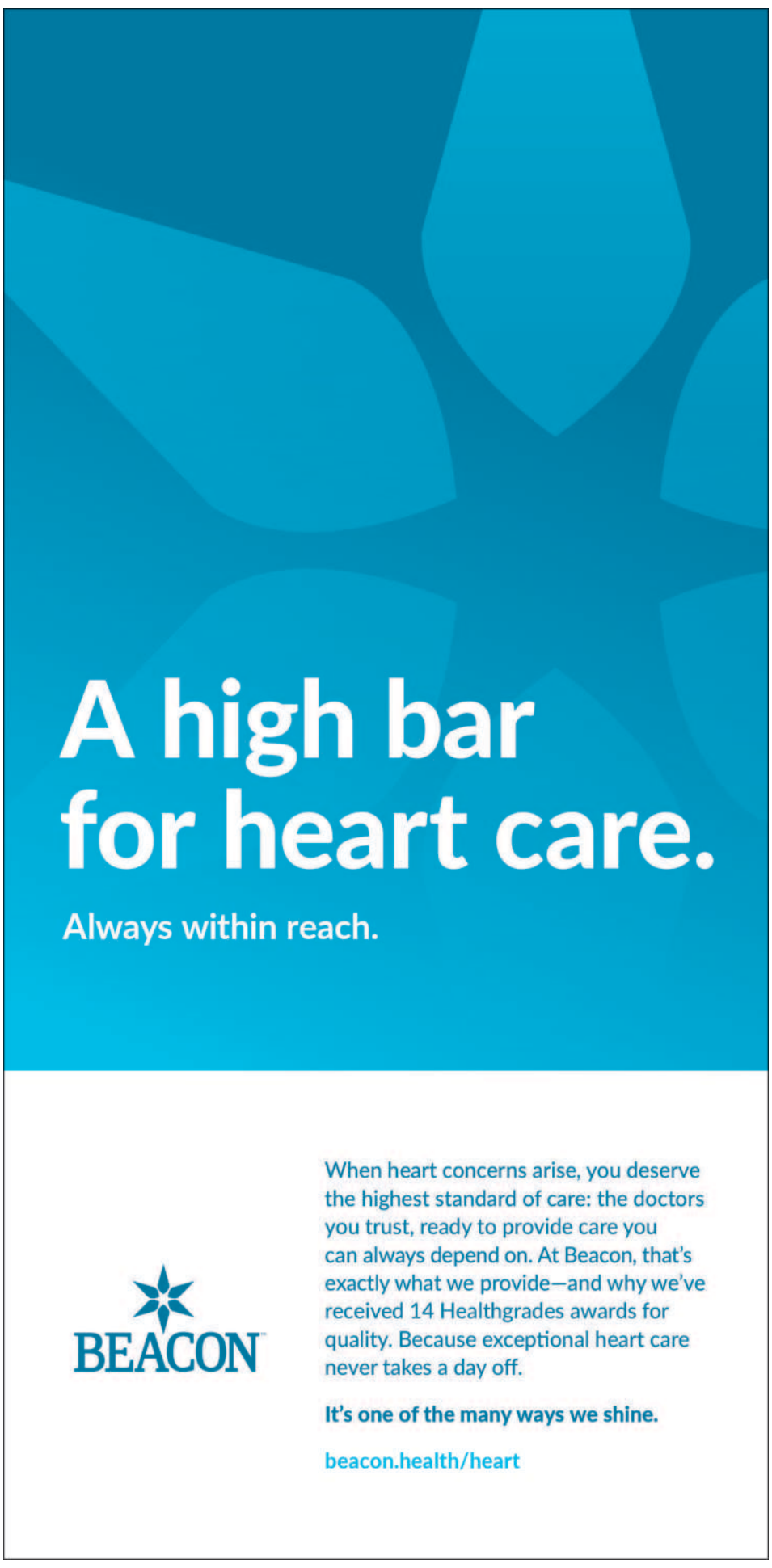
Officials also recommend reporting the email to the City of Plainwell and local law enforcement. Anyone who may have already sent payment should contact their financial institution immediately and file a police report.

Residents with questions regarding planning, zoning, permits or application fees are encouraged to contact City Hall directly using verified contact information.

City officials said they are working to raise awareness and prevent financial loss.

"The City of Plainwell takes fraudulent activity seriously and encourages residents to remain vigilant and verify any unexpected requests for payment that appear to come from government agencies," officials said.

Anyone who has received the fraudulent email or similar communications is asked to report the incident to the Plainwell Department of Public Safety.



BREWSTER'S
FINE FOOD & SPIRITS
1420 M89, OTSEGO • 269-694-1818
DINE IN & TAKE OUT HOURS
Wed.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Sun. 12pm-7pm
Kitchen closes 1/2 hour before the bar.
Potato Wedges only $2.99 per order
EXTRA SIDES $2.75
• Cole Slaw • Baked Beans
• Potato Salad • Cottage Cheese
• French Fries • Garlic Mashed Potatoes
BONE-IN BROASTED CHICKEN
GRAB & GO
by the piece, box or bucket!
AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
11AM TO 6PM
Call ahead for large orders!
By the box/bucket
4 piece $7.75
8 piece $13.99
16 piece $27.75
32 piece $55.00
By the piece
Leg $2.00
Thigh $2.00
Wing $2.00
Breast $3.00

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest
Award-winning Newspaper
Best Sports Column
Thursday, April 16, 2026

Girls Track Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLEGAN

Coach: Mike Chalupa

Returning letter winners: Anna Billman, soph. (distance); Aylah Copeland, jr. (sprints, relays); Eliza DeLaet, sr. (throws, pole vault, sprints); Bailee Dilley, sr. (pole vault, long jump, sprints); Nevaeh Williams, jr. (sprints, relays, long jump); Jayden VandenAkker, sr. (hurdles, sprints, high jump).

Top newcomers: Alyx Falor, fr. (sprints, hurdles); Ireland Dewey, jr. (sprints); Bridget McKinley, sr.

Season outlook:

With improved numbers and a mix of experienced returners and new faces, Allegan enters the 2026 season looking to build depth while continuing to compete across the board.

"We have better numbers than we have seen in recent years, so it is nice to have a mixture of veterans and new faces," coach Mike Chalupa said. "The group is upbeat, energetic and hard-working."

Leading the way will be a pair of senior standouts in Bailee Dilley and Jayden VandenAkker, both of whom have already turned in strong early-season performances.

"Looking forward to what the outdoor season has in store for Bailee and Jayden," Chalupa said.

Dilley has already made history this spring, breaking Allegan's 16-year-old pole vault record with a clearance of 11 feet, 1 inch. VandenAkker also returns after an All-State performance last season, finishing runner-up in the 100-meter hurdles.

Isabelle Sliter has qualified for the Division 3 State Finals in the 1,600 the past two seasons. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

As a team, the focus remains on growth and creating positive experiences for athletes at all levels.

"As always, we are looking for opportunities for our athletes to have a positive experience, show growth and compete at all levels," Chalupa said.

Depth and experience remain areas the Tigers are looking to continue to build.

"Looking to continue to build numbers and get athletes involved," Chalupa said.

At the conference level, Allegan expects Dilley and VandenAkker to be among the top competitors, while the team continues to develop around them.

The Tigers finished 3-8 in conference meets last season and will look to take a step forward as the season progresses.

FENNVILLE

Coach: Josh Sliter

Returning letter winners: Isabelle Sliter, jr. (800, 1,600, 3,200); Sanija Ballman, jr. (100 hurdles, 100).

Top newcomers: Macy Samp, fr. (pole vault, sprints).

Season outlook:

Fennville enters the 2026 season focused on development, with an emphasis on growth at each meet and building toward the future.

"Looking to see growth at each track meet," coach Josh Sliter said.

Leading the way will be junior Isabelle Sliter, a two-time state qualifier in the 1,600-meter run who is aiming to return to the state finals while also expanding her impact.

"We expect Isabelle to be another repeat state qualifier in the 1,600," Coach Sliter said. "She is also setting her sights on qualifying in the 3,200 this season."

Freshman Macy Samp is another athlete to watch, particularly in the pole vault, where she is already closing in on a state-qualifying mark after clearing 9 feet last season. Samp has also shown early promise in the sprints.

"She has the potential of qualifying for state in the pole vault and possibly in the 100 and 200 as well," Coach Sliter said.

With limited numbers, staying healthy will be a key factor for the Blackhawks throughout the season.

"We started out with under 10 girls and are already down a couple due to injuries," Coach Sliter said. "Keeping the girls we have healthy is going to be important."

As a result, Fennville will lean heavily on individual performances rather than team scoring.

Jayden VandenAkker is back to lead Allegan. (File photo)

"Sometimes just being able to fill events and place is all you need," Coach Sliter said. "We are hoping to finish a little bit higher in the conference standings this season."

Now in his second season leading the program, Josh Sliter continues to focus on long-term growth while helping his athletes develop into well-rounded competitors.

"Our goal every season is to produce solid, well-rounded athletes," he said

.

HOPKINS

Coach: Philip Moerdyke

Returning letter winners: Sophia Baker, jr. (100 hurdles, 300 hurdles, high jump); Keilah Bonga, jr. (shot put, discus); Andrea Brower, jr. (100 hurdles, 300 hurdles, 4x400); Lillian Dewey, jr. (800, 1,600, 3,200); Megan Bowser, soph. (200, 400); Chloe Evans, soph. (200, 400, long jump); Riley Homrich, sr. (100, 200, relays); Claire Fifelski, soph. (shot put, discus, sprints); Kaylee Katje, jr. (1,600,

■ see **Girls Track**, Page B3

Boys Golf Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLEGAN

As the spring season gets underway, the Allegan boys golf team is focused on building consistency, strengthening team chemistry and competing with any opponent it faces.

The Tigers return a mix of experienced players and developing talent as they look to make a push in conference play and into the postseason.

Leading the way is a senior-heavy group that includes Logan Glave, Nolan Richmond, Noah Greig, Owen Kruitoff and Dylan Holtsclaw. Junior Noah Kuebler also returns, along with sophomores Kaden Thomas and Austin Schallhorn.

That core will be counted on to set the tone while helping bring along a pair of newcomers in sophomore Brady Pinnell and freshman Ayden Church.

"With a mix of experienced returning players, we hope they can bring strong play and motivate our promising newcomers to find their rhythm and succeed throughout the season," Allegan coach Ken Bronkema said.

Allegan enters the season with an emphasis on lowering scores and maintaining a steady mindset throughout each round.

"With a steady mindset and true commitment, this team hopes to conquer school records, medal at tournaments and achieve personal goals, one swing at a time," Bronkema said.

Bronkema, who also serves as the girls varsity golf coach, leads the program alongside assistant Zoe Bronkema and Allegan alum Justin Nahikian.

The coaching staff is focused not only on results, but also on the growth of the players both on and off the course.

"This group is focused not only on winning matches, but also building discipline, teamwork and confidence with every round they play," Bronkema said.

HAMILTON

After graduating a large portion of last year's lineup, Hamilton's boys golf team will rely on a mix of returning experience and developing talent as it looks to grow throughout the season.

"This season resembles a rebuilding year," coach Brooke Pulling said. "We lost five top players to graduation last year, but we have two key returners."

Leading the way are senior Dominic Schipper and junior Weston Meiste, who will anchor a lineup that also features several newcomers expected to make an impact, including junior Colin Vork and sophomores Brendan Hansen and Colin Johr.

"Our newcomers will be a great asset to our varsity team," Pulling said. "They bring a lot of natural talent and drive to improve their game."

With a relatively inexperienced roster, Hamilton's focus will be on steady improvement and developing consistency, both physically and mentally.

"My goal for this season is to focus on growth as a team and making smart moves on the course," Pulling said. "Can we stay composed after a mishit or high-scoring hole?"

That mental approach is something the Hawkeyes have emphasized early on.

"Consistency is key," Pulling said. "We're currently working on our mental game and staying strong in the toughest situations."

While experience may be a challenge, Pulling said the team's work ethic has stood out.

"Our strength as a team is our willingness to put in the work at practices," she said. "This group of players is ready to compete."

Hamilton finished sixth in the conference and eighth at regionals a year ago, and Pulling is hopeful the team can improve those marks this spring.

"I'd love to see Hamilton land in the middle or top half of the conference," she said. "With the right amount of skill, focus and confidence, we can get there."

■ see **Boys Golf**, Page B2

Bulldogs cruise past visiting Three Rivers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—The Otsego girls tennis team turned in a strong performance Monday, April 13, sweeping Three Rivers 7-0 in Wolverine Conference action.

The Bulldogs took control early by winning all four singles flights in straight sets.

At No. 1 singles, Hailey Burd led the way with a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Jayna Larson. Ellie Korringa followed with a 6-0, 6-0 win at No. 2 singles, while Lydia Griffith claimed a 6-1, 6-1 decision at No. 3.

Alie Bronson completed the singles sweep with a 6-2, 6-0 victory at the No. 4 spot.

Otsego continued its strong play in doubles, picking up wins at the first three flights.

At No. 1 doubles, Sara McCaw and Stella Houseman earned a 6-1, 6-1 victory. Hope Stender and Mila Garrett followed with a 6-3, 6-2 win at No. 2, while Rachel Breese and Laney Sweet secured a 6-4, 6-1 decision at No. 3.

Mila Garrett is seen in a recent match for Otsego. She teamed with Hope Stender to beat Three Rivers at No. 2 doubles. (Photo by Tim Beason)

Saugatuck soccer earns tie against Niles

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—Following a hiatus of more than two weeks, the Saugatuck girls soccer team returned from spring break to host Niles on Monday, April 13.

And while the game was stopped early due to lightning, Trailblazers coach Neal Phillips liked what he saw from this team.

The game ended in a scoreless tie, bringing Saugatuck's record to 2-2-1.

"Niles is a much bigger school than us, so for us to be able to tie them says a lot about our girls," Phillips said. "It was a great team effort from everybody."

Phillips was especially pleased with the effort of junior goalie Ginny Cerneugel, who finished with 16 saves to secure the shutout.

"Ginny kept us in the hunt," Phillips said.

The Trailblazers were scheduled to travel to Constantine on Wednesday, April 15, before returning home to host South Haven on Monday, April 20.

Boys Golf ■ from Page B1

HOPKINS

With a veteran group returning, the Hopkins boys golf team is looking to take a step forward in the OK Silver this season.

"Our team goal is to finish in the top three of our league," coach William Spoelhof said.

Leading the way for the Vikings is a senior-heavy lineup that includes returning letter winners Trevor Anderson, Abe Krussell, Henry Teunissen, Hendrick Reurink, Seth Marshall and Blake Hyma.

That experience should help provide both leadership and stability throughout the season.

"Our strengths will be our consistency around the green," Spoelhof said.

Hopkins will also look for contributions from junior Gavin Baugh, who is expected to make an immediate impact as the team's top newcomer.

The Vikings are coming off a fourth-place finish in the conference a year ago and will look to climb the standings in what Spoelhof expects to be a competitive league race.

"NorthPointe Christian and Calvin Christian are usually the top contenders for the league title," he said.

Now in his 18th season leading the program, Spoelhof is optimistic about what this group can accomplish.

"We are excited to see how this team performs," he said. "We should see some exciting golf from this team."

With a strong returning core and a focus on steady, consistent play, Hopkins will look to position itself among the top teams in the conference this spring.

OTSEGO

After a season of success a year ago, the Otsego boys golf program enters 2026 facing both change and opportunity.

The Bulldogs graduated Wolverine Conference Player of the Year Spencer Shearer along with three other All-Conference golfers, and longtime coach Matt Rayman has retired after more than two decades leading the program.

Despite those losses, Otsego is not approaching the season as a rebuild.

Leading the way are returning All-Conference golfers Karson Holladay, a senior, and junior Owen Santman, both of whom are expected to be among the top players in the Wolverine Conference.

With that foundation in place, first-year head coach Michael Miller believes the team can remain competitive.

"Our goals this year look very similar to what they've been in years past," Miller said. "We want to compete for the conference title, be competitive in every tournament and qualify for the state finals."

Otsego will also rely on a group of players stepping into larger roles. Seniors Kole Engleright and juniors Kal-El Leonard and Roman Busscher have waited their turn and are expected to contribute, while freshman Cooper Mejeur has already made an impression with his tournament experience.

That mix has created strong competition for lineup spots.

"Beyond our top group, we have several athletes pushing for positions, which gives us depth and internal competition," Miller said.

Experience at the top of the lineup is a clear strength, though the middle of the lineup will continue to develop.

"Our one- and two-seeds are proven scorers who bring consistency and leadership," Miller said. "The 3–6 spots are less experienced, but we're confident they will grow as the season progresses."

In the conference race, Otsego expects plenty of competition.

"Vicksburg returns a strong group, Edwardsburg has experience, and Plainwell should be very competitive," Miller said. "There are several teams capable of being in the mix."

Otsego is coming off a Wolverine Conference championship season and will look to defend that title while also pursuing a return trip to the state finals.

Miller, who takes over after serving as an assistant under Rayman, brings a strong track record after leading the girls program to back-to-back conference and regional titles along with consecutive state finals appearances.

With proven leadership at the top of the lineup and a group eager to step into bigger roles, the Bulldogs will look to remain among the conference's top teams this spring.

Plainwell's Drew Rayman returns for his senior year after a top-10 finish at the State Finals as a junior. (File photo)

PLAINWELL

Plainwell enters the season with its sights set on contending in the Wolverine Conference behind a strong returning group led by senior Drew Rayman.

"We will compete for the Wolverine Conference championship," said coach Scott Cool, who returns to lead the program after taking last season off.

Rayman is coming off a top-10 finish at the Division 2 State Finals and averaged 36.5 in league play last year.

"We have the top player in the conference in Drew Rayman," Cool said. "I expect him to have an even lower average this year."

He is joined by a solid group of returning contributors, including seniors Gibby Youngs and Reece Trahan, junior Sawyer McCall and sophomore Cam Larsen — a group Cool believes could make a strong impact.

"Drew, Sawyer, Gibby, Reece and Cam all have a shot to be all-conference," he said. "If they all make the Wolverine top 12, that should bode well for us."

Plainwell also welcomes a group of newcomers, including freshmen Easton Morrow and Preston Gunderson along with sophomores Gibson Pettit and Logan Gabala.

Saugatuck's Grant Schrotenboer shows off the the regional trophy the Trailblazers won last season. (File photo)

While the Trojans have plenty of talent, experience could be a factor early in the season.

"We have a talented team, although we are a bit lacking in experience," Cool said. "Some of our guys need more matches, and they will gain confidence as the season goes on."

The Wolverine Conference figures to be competitive once again.

"Vicksburg, Otsego and Edwardsburg are also very good teams," Cool said. "Any one of these four schools could win the conference."

Early results have been encouraging, particularly from Rayman, who has already posted strong scores in the opening jamborees.

SAUGATUCK

After a historic season a year ago, the expectations remain high for the Saugatuck boys golf team.

"Our goals this year look very similar to what they've been in years past," coach Brian Ward said. "Our expectation for this year is the exact same."

That's a lofty standard considering what the Trailblazers accomplished in 2025, going undefeated in conference play, winning all seven Lakeshore jamborees, capturing a regional title and finishing eighth at the Division 4 state finals.

And while Saugatuck moves up to Division 3 this season, Ward believes his team has the pieces in place to once again compete at a high level.

"I still think we have a great chance to place top three at our regional and make it to the state finals for a fourth year in a row," he said.

Leading the way will be a veteran group that returns nearly intact from last season's squad. That includes seniors Nick Mohr and Noah Conklin along with junior Walt Bos and sophomores Grant Schrotenboer and Macky Larue.

"We've got almost our entire team returning," Ward said. "That gives us a lot of experience that should serve us well throughout the season."

Newcomers Lance Oczepek, a junior, and sophomore Charlie Lanning will look to add depth to an already experienced lineup.

In the conference race, Ward expects South Haven to provide the biggest challenge.

"I think South Haven will be our biggest competition," he said. "But I like our chances given our depth and experience."

Ward is entering his 11th season as the varsity coach and 14th overall with the program.

WAYLAND

With a new head coach bringing decades of collegiate experience, the Wayland boys golf team enters the season focused on growth and development.

Allen Curtiss, in his first year leading the Wildcats, spent 36 years coaching golf and football at the college level, including helping guide teams to conference championships and earning 2015 GMAC Men's Coach of the Year honors.

"This will be a season of growing for our team," Curtiss said. "We have a new coaching staff and a large portion of our players who don't have a great deal of varsity experience. With that being said, we have blended great."

Wayland returns a group that includes seniors Jaden Osterhout and Shane Koon, junior Brayden Calkins and sophomore Hustler Sok, while juniors Carson Sipkema and Nick Winchel are among those expected to contribute.

Curtiss said the focus will be on steady improvement both on and off the course.

"Our goals and expectations are and always will be to win on the course and in the classroom," he said. "Our focus, though, is to improve and learn every time we are on the course."

The Wildcats have shown some early strengths, particularly off the tee.

"Our strength is our ability to hit the ball long," Curtiss said. "Our weakness is knowing when to use it and when to back off and manage the course."

Curtiss believes Wayland has the potential to be competitive in the OK Gold Conference.

"From what I have seen so far, I believe we can be in the top tier," he said. "The top dog I think is South Christian."

As the program adjusts to a new coaching staff and approach, Curtiss said the emphasis will be on long-term development.

"We are different," he said. "We are developing our players in the same way I have at the collegiate level to grow and be successful."

Professionals Directory Guide

New and used computers and accessories, repair & service
brother at your side
Authorized Service Center
Commitment Quality Reliability
A-Tech COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

VA DISABILITY
AUTO ACCIDENTS • SERIOUS INJURIES • WRONGFUL DEATH
ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE ADMINISTRATION
COOPER LAW
269-436-8316
www.cooperlawplc.com
VA DISABILITY LAW CENTER
www.veteransdisabilitylawcenter.com
ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION
www.usarmedforcesfoundation.org
A Public, Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Charity
134 SOUTH PHELPS STREET #64 • DECATUR, MI 49045
LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC MINT EXCHANGE BUILDING DOWNTOWN DECATUR

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
A Straight Flush Beats A Full House
Residential & Commercial
1148 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com

Wolf Law Group
1244 Lincoln Rd. (M-89), Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-2105
www.wolflawoffices.com
Heidi L. Wolf
Attorney at Law
Criminal • Divorce • Family Law • Wills & Trusts
Major Credit Cards Accepted

simple human sense.
KEN BLEEKER INSURANCE
269.672.5228 • kenbleeker.com
Auto-Owners INSURANCE

David Smith, CPIA
Senior Vice President,
Insurance Sales and Administration
david.smith@UnitedBank4U.com
269.792.8760
1131 West Superior Street
Wayland, MI 49348
United Insurance

Allegan Eyecare
Dr. Amanda Hodge
Dr. Paul Hodge
Dr. Matthew Austin
Ph 269.673.5100
800.797.4351
Fx 269.673.1806
123 Locust Street
Allegan, MI 49010
alleganeyecare.com

To Advertise in the Allegan County News
Professionals Directory Guide
Call 269-673-5534

Girls track ■ from Page B1

Kaylee Katje, jr. (1,600, 3,200); Annika Ford, soph. (sprints, relays); Grace Schumacher, sr. (800, 1,600); Peyton Harshberger, soph. (high jump, mid-distance); MacKenzie Huff, soph. (sprints); Elliot VanderVeen, jr. (sprints, 400); Mari Mitchell, soph. (throws); Tuesday Stevens, soph. (800, 1,600); Jenessa Tripp, soph. (jumps).

Top newcomers: Lily Benting, fr. (sprints, relays); Taylie Burgess, fr. (sprints, long jump); Bella Jordan, fr. (distance); Adeline Mains, fr. (throws).

Season outlook: After back-to-back dominant seasons in the OK Silver, Hopkins enters 2026 looking to continue that success.

"Our ladies team is hoping to continue our success in the conference," coach Philip Moerdyke said. "Over the last two years, they have gone undefeated in conference matchups and won the conference meet."

Despite graduating several key contributors, the Vikings return a strong core and welcome a large group of newcomers, giving them both depth and versatility.

"This year still looks incredibly bright," Moerdyke said. "We have a large team with some new freshman and sophomore talent."

Hopkins' strength lies in its ability to score across multiple events, led by standout performers in sprints, distance and field events.

Senior Riley Homrich leads the sprint group after qualifying for the state finals each of the past three seasons, while junior Lillian Dewey anchors the distance crew. In the field events, Keilah Bonga returns as a state qualifier in the throws, and the Vikings feature depth in the jumping events as well.

"We have some strong runners and excellent field event athletes, which should give us an opportunity to score in most events," Moerdyke said.

Developing depth in mid-distance events and pole vault will be a focus as the season progresses.

"We graduated a slew of mid-distance runners last year, so we are developing athletes to step into those roles," Moerdyke said.

In the conference race, Hopkins once again expects to be in the mix near the top.

"With the talent we currently have, we are shooting to be top two in the conference," Moerdyke said. "Belding is always in the mix, and Fruitport's numbers are up."

The Vikings went 7-0 in conference dual meets last season and captured the OK Silver title, while also sending multiple athletes to the Division 2 state finals.

With a blend of experienced returners and emerging talent, Hopkins will look to extend its run of success this spring.

MARTIN

Coaches: Damon and Caryn Blackburn

Returning letter winners: Kyleigh Buell, soph. (sprints, relays); Aliyah DeGlopper, soph. (shot put, discus); Allison Rogers, soph. (distance, relays); Durae Sage, soph. (mid-distance, relays); Veyda Conley, jr. (distance, relays); Sara Schipper, jr. (high jump, relays); Torryn Harris, sr. (sprints, relays).

Season outlook: Martin enters the 2026 season looking to build around a core group of returning athletes while continuing to develop younger contributors.

After graduating several key seniors, the Clippers will be in a rebuilding phase, but still feature athletes capable of competing at a high level.

"We did graduate a number of scoring seniors last year, so there is room for rebuilding," the Blackburns said. "However, we have added a few upperclassmen new to track to help with that."

Leading the way is junior Veyda Conley, who turned in an impressive performance at the state finals last season. Conley placed eighth in the 3,200-meter run and 11th in the 1,600, while also setting school records in both events.

She is joined by senior Torryn Harris and junior Sara Schipper, both of whom were part of state-qualifying relay teams and earned multiple regional medals a year ago.

"We hope to send our past state qualifiers back to the state meet with a few more joining them for the first time," the Blackburns said.

While team depth remains a challenge, Martin continues to find success through individual performances and a strong team culture.

"Our conference is always a tough one, but we do have several individuals who will do well," the Blackburns said.

That culture has been a defining part of the program, with the Blackburns emphasizing a unified approach between the boys and girls teams.

"We coach and run the boys and girls together as one team, one family," they said. "Building a cooperative and supportive spirit among all of the athletes is a key component of our program."

This season will also mark the final year for the Blackburns, who are retiring from teaching and coaching at the end of the year.

Despite the transition ahead, the focus remains on growth and continuing the program's tradition of individual success at the regional and state levels.

Junior Olivia Klimp is one of the area's top hurdlers. (File photo)

OTSEGO

Coach: Justin Scott

Returning letter winners: Jazmyn Adams (sprints, relays); Skylar Brooks (pole vault, high jump, long jump, relays); Zayla Clark (sprints, high jump); Madden Fitzpatrick (throws, relays); Madeline Goodwin (distance); Audrey Holmes (throws, sprints); Olivia Klimp (hurdles, long jump, relays); Jordan McKague (sprints, relays); Skylar Mejeur (distance); Rylee Norris (hurdles); Ezra Smith (sprints, relays); Rebekah Stachura (distance); Brenna Yocum (distance).

Season outlook: After finishing runner-up in the Wolverine Conference a year ago, Otsego enters the 2026 season with its sights set on returning to the top — even if the path won't be easy.

"It has been two years since we have been conference champions and we are hoping to get back on top this season," coach Justin Scott said. "It is going to be a challenge for us."

That challenge is amplified by the depth across the league.

"Every single team in our conference is filled with talent," Scott said. "There is not a single team in our conference that, if you told me they would win the league, I wouldn't be able to believe it."

While the Bulldogs feature a number of returning contributors, Scott noted that experience is not as deep as in recent seasons.

"This might be the least amount of returning experience that we have had in the last decade," he said. "We are getting good leadership from our small group of veterans and hopefully they will be able to help us get our young kids ready to go."

Otsego's strength should once again be in the distance events, along with the throws.

"We will be very strong in the distance races this season, and we should also score a good amount of points in the throwing events," Scott said.

Finding production in other areas will be key to the team's success.

"We will need to find a way to generate points in sprints and jumps," Scott said.

With a mix of potential and uncertainty, Scott expects the team to evolve as the season progresses.

"We have a lot of potential, but we have a long way yet to go," he said. "We will need to experiment with lineups and practice extremely hard, but by the end of the season I think we could be really good."

The Bulldogs posted a 5-2 dual meet record last season and finished second in both the conference meet and overall standings.

Now in his 14th season, Scott has guided Otsego to seven conference titles and six regional championships, and hopes this group can position itself to add to that list.

SAUGATUCK

Coach: Angelina Bauer (19th season)

Returning letter winners: Alina Martinson, sr. (distance, mid-distance — 400m, 800m, 1,600m, 3,200m, 4x800 relay); Savannah VanDenBerg, sr. (distance, mid-distance — 400m, 800m, 1,600m, 3,200m, 4x800 relay); Novella DeGraaf, jr. (pole vault, long jump, 100m hurdles, 300m hurdles); Lyvia Curtis, jr. (distance, mid-distance — 400m, 800m, 1,600m, 3,200m, 4x800 relay); Kamryn Sixberry, jr. (distance, mid-distance — 400m, 800m, 1,600m, 3,200m, 4x800 relay); Laine Borst, soph. (sprints — 100m, 200m, 400m; hurdles — 100m hurdles); Leora Buss, soph. (pole vault, sprints — 200m; mid-distance — 400m); Kinsley Gries, soph. (throws — discus, shot put; sprints — 100m, 200m)

Top newcomers: Ellyse Heyser, fr. (distance, mid-distance — 400m, 800m, 1,600m, 3,200m, 4x800 relay); Abbey Gorman, fr. (long jump, 200m, 400m); Isabella Ketterer, soph. (100m, 200m, 400m; hurdles — 100m, 300m); Elli Dokianakis, soph. (throws — shot put, discus)

Season Outlook: Even with a relatively small roster, Saugatuck has the pieces in place to be competitive this season.

The Trailblazers return a strong core of experienced athletes, particularly in the distance events, where seniors Alina Martinson and Savannah VanDenBerg headline a deep and talented group. They are joined by juniors Lyvia Curtis and Kamryn Sixberry, giving Saugatuck multiple scoring options across the mid- and long-distance races.

"We are a small team but with enough power to hold our own," coach Angelina Bauer said. "We hope to compete at the top in our large league and qualify as many athletes as possible for the State Finals."

That distance group figures to be the team's biggest strength, but Saugatuck also returns key contributors in other areas. Junior Novella DeGraaf brings versatility in the jumps and hurdles, while sophomores Laine Borst, Leora Buss and Kinsley Gries provide depth across sprints, vault and throws.

At the same time, Bauer noted that the team is still working to find its identity, with a mix of experienced leaders and younger, less experienced athletes.

"We have a core group of veteran girls with strong leadership, but we also are largely new, young and inexperienced," Bauer said. "We are fairly small, which will make it hard to fill in gaps, but we have a quality core."

The Trailblazers are also welcoming back a key contributor from injury, which could provide an additional boost as the season progresses.

After finishing second at regionals last year and qualifying nine athletes across eight events for the State Finals, Saugatuck enters the season with high—but measured—expectations.

"I never want to be overconfident, so we are approaching this season with caution and setting high but realistic goals," Bauer said.

With a strong returning nucleus and a focus on steady improvement, the Trailblazers will look to position themselves among the top teams in a competitive SAC.

Alina Martinson is back for her senior season at Saugatuck. (File photo)

"It is hard to know how the season will shake out at this point," Bauer said. "But we are enjoying living in the moment and putting the pieces together."

WAYLAND

Coach: Nikki Hoogewind

Returning letter winners: **Seniors:** Evie Mathis (pole vault, sprints, long jump); Laney Wolf (sprints, relays); Ryleigh Haveman (sprints, relays, mid-distance); Mackenzie Kositysky (throws); Megan Stack (pole vault). **Juniors:** Megan Brogger (sprints, relays); Gwen Howard (high jump); Kendyl Scott (hurdles, sprints, long jump); Ashlee Weesaw (hurdles, mid-distance); Ayva Mulder (sprints). **Sophomores:** Bre Hoogewind (mid-distance, pole vault); Quinn Reeder (sprints, relays); Mikayla Lenhart (distance).

Top newcomers: Abree VanDenBrink, soph. (distance); Jordan Grevenstuk, fr. (sprints, throws); Lilli Lakatos, fr. (high jump, long jump, sprints); Tessa Miller, fr. (mid-distance); Marissa Ainsworth, jr. (sprints, relays, throws).

Season outlook: With increased participation and a mix of experienced returners and newcomers, Wayland enters the 2026 season looking to take a step forward under first-year head coach Nikki Hoogewind.

"We have the numbers this season and athletes to fill the spots," Hoogewind said. "We increased participation this season and will work to build the success of the program."

The Wildcats will lean on a group of veteran leaders, including senior captain Evie Mathis and junior Megan Brogger, while also expecting strong contributions from seniors Laney Wolf and Ryleigh Haveman.

Wayland's added depth should allow the team to be more competitive across events, though Hoogewind said there is still room for growth in certain areas.

"We would like to increase the number of field event participants and distance runners," she said.

Among the newcomers, sophomore Abree VanDenBrink and freshman Jordan Grevenstuk are expected to make an immediate impact, while several other young athletes add depth to the roster.

With that combination of experience and emerging talent, Wayland has set its sights high.

"Looking to compete for the OK Gold Conference championship," Hoogewind said.

In her first season leading the program, Hoogewind is focused not only on results, but also on long-term development.

"Looking to develop skills, build strong leadership on the team and increase participation," she said.

If the Wildcats can continue to build depth and consistency, they could position themselves as a contender in the conference race this spring.

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Hamilton or Plainwell prior to deadline.*

They're in Good Hands Here

From puppies and kittens to senior pets, our caring and experienced team is here to provide your pet with the very best care and a compassionate touch.

Dr. Shanna Jack
Dr. Chris Buckley
and welcoming
Dr. Melinda Kelley

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
594 10th St, Plainwell
(269) 685-5894
New Extended Hours
8:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:30pm M-F

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
Accepting New Patients

S&S CUSTOM BUILDERS
POLE BARNS • GARAGES • CUSTOM BUILDS
Built Right. Built Strong. Built to Last.
Pole Barns (All Sizes)
Custom Garages
Steel Buildings
Lean-To Additions
Concrete Floors Available
Excavation & Site Prep
42+ Years Experience
Serving Within 30 Miles of Plainwell, MI
SPRING BOOKINGS OPEN NOW
Get your project scheduled before spots fill up!
Call Today for a Free Estimate!
269-623-4788
SSCustomBuilders.com

UPCOMING EVENTS
CAMP KIDWELL
Saturday, May 16, 9 am Shotgun
All Gave Some, Some Gave All
Saturday, June 6, 9 am Shotgun
HERB JOHNSON Celebration Of Life
Saturday, June 13, 1 pm start.
2026 KITCHEN HOURS:
MON-THURS 11- 8:30
FRI, SAT, SUN 11- 4
STARTING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY.
www.cheshirehills.com
• Driving Range • Pro Shop • Golf Lessons • Leagues
• Golf Outings • Banquets • Restaurant • Sports Bar
Cheshire Hills GOLF COURSE
3829 102nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)673-2882
27 Holes of Natural Beauty at an Affordable Price

For The Record

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

April 19, 1951

Snow fails to dampen camp out: A light snowfall and bright sunshine fought for position Monday.

But Allegan high school seniors launched their annual week's camp-out in heavy jackets with lots of ambitious plans.

About 50 gathered at Lake Allegan's camp for the five-day program of outdoor living — hikes, trapping, forestry and conservation work.

Under the direction of Hartger Winter, the group is working with state and district conservation experts in special projects.

The first day included a visit to Allegan municipal dam, a tour of old Singapore, the dune-buried village on Lake Michigan, a compass hike and building of brush shelters for partridge and rabbits.

Tuesday, Bill Hummel, predatory game control worker for the state conservation department took the group on a trapping expedition. Others went on forestry trips with Paul Schroeder, district forester, a trip which included building a foot bridge across the Daley bayou.

April 15, 1976

Area couples to link with wagon train: Six Allegan County riders will link up May 5 with a Bicentennial Wagon Train that is leaving Lansing as part of a national wagon train bound for Valley Forge and a July 4 celebration.

Riders John and Jan Hettinger of Allegan, Morrie and Lenore Van Den Berg of Hopkins, and Jim and Linda Commissaris of Allegan will represent the county when the train leaves Lansing and winds its way west thru Battle Creek, Three Rivers and Union — where it links with the Michigan wagon train — and then east thru Coldwater, Litchfield, Cambridge Junction, and into Ohio.

The national train left Blaine, Wash., last June bound for Valley Forge and a rendezvous with several thousand horsepersons.

The county representatives will join part of the ride thru the state, as time and personal schedules permit, and all three couples will join the national train June 26 somewhere in Pennsylvania and ride the remainder of the way to Valley Forge.

"As the official outriders in the wagon train pilgrimage," said Mrs. Hettinger, "our main purpose is to represent the people of Allegan County."

April 19, 2001

Drozd family brings home corn honors: Area corn growers Jon, Jay and Tom Drozd were recently named state winners in the 2000 National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association.

Jon and Jay Drozd of Allegan placed third in the state in the Irrigated Class with a yield of 204.6841 bushels per acre. The hybrid planted in the winning field was Pioneer 33A14.

Allegan County Bicentennial Chairman John Watts reads the special wagon train scroll to the six country residents who will link next month with the state and national wagon trains bound for a July 4 celebration at Pennsylvania's Valley Forge. Couples going are, from left, Jim and Linda Commissaris, Morrie and Lenore Van Den Berg,and John and Jan Hettinger.

News & Gazette photo

Jon Drozd of Allegan, above with his children and NCGA Corn Board member Fred Yoder, and Drozd Farms were recognized as state winners in the 2000 National Corn Yield Contest sponsored by the National Corn Growers Association. Pictured below are from left, Lynn Jensen, NCGA chairman, and Lori and Jay Drozd, to whom Jensen made a presentation during the Commodity Classic that was conducted Feb. 25-27 in San Antonio, Texas. (Photos provided)

Tom Drozd of Allegan placed third in the state in the A Non-Irrigated Class with a yield of 205.6816 bushels per acre.

The local growers were three of the 507 state winners from among 3,552 entrants nationwide. The state winners used 159 different hybrids to produce an average yield of 207.5 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from last year's winning yield average. Even the non-winners fared well—only 5.2 bushels separated the average winning yield from the average of all entrants (202.3 bpa).

The high yield was 357.3 bushels per acre, produced by a grower in Manchester, Iowa, who topped the popular contest for the second year in a row.

Weather once again played a significant role in yields that ranged from the winning 357.3 bushels to the lowest national yield of 216.7 bushels per acre.

"It's interesting that the majority of the winners were east of the Mississippi River," said NCGA President Lee Klein of Battle Creek, Neb. "Growers in eastern states who endured devastating droughts in previous years finally enjoyed better-than-ideal growing conditions in 2000.

April 22, 2021

Casino plans $300 million expansion, including hotel: The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, or Gun Lake Tribe, will add a hotel and resort amenities as part of a $300 million expansion planned at its Gun Lake Casino, the tribe announced.

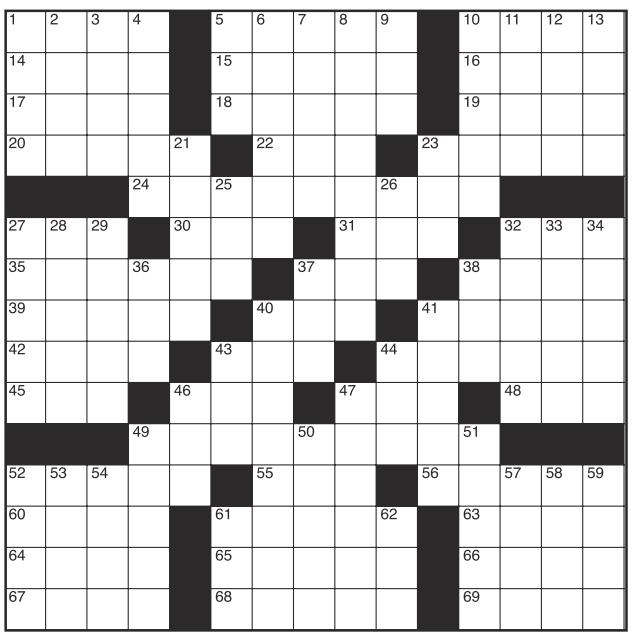
The project, which will be the largest expansion yet for the casino, will add 250,000 square feet to extend the property west toward US-131. New additions to Gun Lake Casino will include a 250-room hotel with luxury suites, a full service spa and a restaurant. The expansion also includes a fully enclosed glass domed pool and nightlife entertainment space. Guests will be able to rent private cabanas by the pool during the day while the new space will include live entertainment at night.

"We are proud of the continued growth of Gun Lake Casino which is directly connected to the outstanding effort of our team members," Gun Lake Tribe Chairman Bob Peters said in a statement. "The tribe remains steadfastly committed to reinvest in our collective future, for the benefit of tribal citizens, team members and the local community. This will provide even more employment opportunities and enhance Gun Lake Casino's position as a tourism driver for western Michigan."

The casino has undergone multiple expansions since it opened in 2011. The casino's $100 million, 72,000-square-foot expansion that kicked off in 2019 is set to open at the end of 2021. The expanded facility includes space for 450 additional slot machines, 12 new table games and a larger non-smoking area inside the casino. It also adds more capacity to the casino's entertainment venue and additional upscale restaurants.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Greek goddess of marriage
5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
10. Abba __, Israeli politician
14. Dark olive black
15. Light, crinkled fabric
16. Notre Dame has a golden one
17. Leaked blood
18. Confronted
19. Negligible amount
20. Facilitated
22. Hill or rocky peak
23. Minneapolis suburb
24. Songs to one's beloved
27. Brake horsepower
30. Angry
31. Children's game
32. Spelling is a type of one
35. Obtained in return for labor
37. Indicates center
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Old World buffaloes
40. Slang for time off
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Defunct regional economic organization
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. Peter Griffin's daughter
47. Digital audiotape
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Pages may be dog-__
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Type of sword
60. Middle Eastern military title
61. Wise individuals
63. French Polynesian island Bora __
64. Popular shoe type
65. One of 50
66. Divulge a secret
67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN
1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
2. Ancient Syrian city
3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
4. Range of mountains
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Spoke
7. City in Georgia
8. Theatrical
9. CNN's founder
10. Icelandic poems
11. Bjorn __, tennis player
12. Bowfin genus
13. One point north of northeast
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Electroencephalograph
25. Cool!
26. Male parent
27. Where some gymnasts work
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter (Scottish)
33. Completed
34. Discharge
36. Arrest
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Stagnate
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume food
46. Type of school
47. Erase
49. Inform
50. Girl's given name
51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Northern India city
54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Deaths

March 23, 2026
DOROTHY DEVER, 87, Dorr Twp.
March 24, 2026
DANIEL STEPHEN COMBEN FRANK, 35, Gun Pllain Twp.
March 26, 2026
DONALD CALLAWAY MACDONALD, 74, Laketown Twp.
March 27, 2026
ELIZABETH AGNES VANDERGOTEN, 79, Gun Plain Twp.
DENNIS OTTO TOOKER, 71, Allegan Twp.
March 29, 2026
REBECCA ANN PARISIAN, 77, Saugatuck Twp.
TINA LOUISE BROWN, 62, Manlius Twp.
JOHN DUANE HOEKSEMA, 56, Monterey Twp.
March 30, 2026
MICHAEL JAMES SERR, 83, Saugatuck Twp.
ANNETTE MARIE TELESKO, 64, Otsego Twp.
JAMES GORDON BOEVE, 90, Laketown Twp.
March 31, 2026
JAMES LEE KOLEAN, 56, Lee Twp.
JOAN RAE BOERS, 74, Valley Twp.
ROSEMARY KUHL, 87, Leighton Twp.
April 1, 2026
STEVEN HOWARD NORTON, 73, Allegan Twp.
April 2, 2026
AIYANA ELIZABETH RIEMERSMA, 64, Leighton Twp.
DALLYCE MAY PARM, 15, Dorr Twp.
SHIRLEY ANN DELP, 86, Salem Twp.
April 3, 2026
MARILYNN HELEN BALCOM, 90, Gun Plain Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between March 31 and April 8:

JEFFREY MICHAEL SHARRARD, Allegan, and **LISA ANN BRADFORD**, Allegan
ALAINA NICOLE CONANT, Allegan, and **CLAYTON J KROEZE**, Allegan
BRYSTON JAMES JERCH, Fennville, and **ADRIENNE JAE VANEVERY**, Fennville
COURTNEY LYNN EHN, Allegan, and **JEFFERY QUINT LILES**, Allegan
KIMBERLY ANN CROSS, Douglas, and **BRIAN PAUL SCIESZKA**, Douglas
BRITTNEY LOU VELDHOUSE, Dorr, and **JAYDEN JOSEPH WAGNER**, Dorr
JOSHUA DAVID RITCHIE, Allegan, and **MIKAELA JOY STERENBERG**, Hamilton
MIA RENEE FINNESTAD, Holland, and **DREW ALEXANDER HANSON**, Saugatuck
EMILY ANN GRACIK, Dorr, and **CALEB LEVI MILLER**, Dorr
MADELINE MEDELLIN, Hamilton, and **ZACHERY CHRISTOPHER THEISEN**, Grand Rapids
LEIGHANN ELIZABETH COVILLE, Plainwell, and **ALEX KARL GREENE**, Plainwell
JAVIER LUNA JR, Fennville, and **ANNA LEE NINO**, Fennville
HUNTER JACOB RIENSTRA, Wayland, and **ALYANA ARLENE SCHOUW**, Wayland
MADISON LEE TANIS, Hamilton, and **ETHAN CHRISTIAN HEIBEL**, Hamilton

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

						2		
8		5		6			7	
			1					
	4				3			
9	1			7				
7					4	5		9
				4	5			2
	7			3				4
					2	9		3

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 A.M., on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Timothy L. Arndt Sr., ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to Ignite Credit Union, successor by merger with Allegan Credit Union, fka Allegan Community Federal Credit Union., ("Mortgagee"), dated January 25, 2021, and recorded on May 31, 2023, in Liber 4860, on Page 25, Allegan County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Forty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Six Dollars and 44/100 Dollars ($46,606.44) plus accrued interest at 5.99% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan @ 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Said premises are situated in the Township of Monterey, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 Corner of said Section; thence North 89 degrees, 24 minutes West 550.00 feet along the South line of said SW 1/4; thence North 00 degrees, 18 minutes 41 seconds East 718.53 feet to the place of beginning; thence North 89 degrees, 24 minutes 00 seconds West 397.05 feet; thence North 02 degrees, 41 minutes 54 seconds East 233.0 feet; thence North 39 degrees 18 minutes 08 seconds West 145.94 feet; thence North 03 degrees, 51 minutes 54 seconds East 334.78 feet; thence South 89 degrees, 24 minutes 00 seconds East 297.65 feet; thence South 00 degrees, 18 minutes 41 seconds West 521.57 feet; thence South 89 degrees 24 minutes 00 seconds East 162.00 feet; thence S 00 degrees, 18 minutes, 41 seconds West 157.47 feet to the place of beginning. Together with an easement for Ingress and egress and utility purposes over a 66 foot wide strip of land the centerline of which is described as: Commencing at the South 1/4 Corner of Section 2, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, thence North 89 degrees, 24 minutes West 977.0 feet along the South line of said Section to the place of beginning of the centerline of said easement; thence North 02 degrees, 41 minutes, 54 seconds East 952.0 feet; thence North 39 degrees, 18 minutes 06 seconds West 145.94 feet; thence North 03 degrees 51 minutes 54 seconds East 334.78 feet; thence South 84 degrees, 25 minutes 06 seconds East 430.0 feet to the place of ending of said easement. Commonly: 3429 Arndts Dr., Hopkins, MI 49328—Tax Id #16-002-030-90 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the re

NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BE HELD ON
May 5, 2026 ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS: OF THESE ALLEGAN COUNTY CITIES: DOUGLAS, HOLLAND, AND SAUGATUCK; OF THESE ALLEGAN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS: ALLEGAN, DORR, FILLMORE, HOPKINS, LAKETOWN, MONTEREY, OVERISEL, SALEM, SAUGATUCK, TROWBRIDGE, AND WATSON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MAY 5, 2026. THE POLLS OF SAID ELECTION WILL BE OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK A.M. AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 8 O'CLOCK P.M. OF SAID DAY OF ELECTION.

AT THE PLACES HOLDING THE ELECTION IN SAID MUNICIPALITIES AS INDICATED BELOW:

DOUGLAS CITY, 415 W. Wiley Rd. Suite 103
SAUGATUCK CITY, 303 Butler St.
ALLEGAN TOWNSHIP, 3037 118th Ave.
DORR TOWNSHIP, Pct. 1, 4196 18th St.
FILLMORE TOWNSHIP, 4219 52nd St.
HOPKINS TOWNSHIP, 128 S. Franklin St.
LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP, Pct. 1&3, 4338 Beeline Rd.
MONTEREY TOWNSHIP, Community Center, 2999 30th St.
OVERISEL TOWNSHIP, A-4307 144th Ave, Holland
SALEM TOWNSHIP, 3003 142ND Ave.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP, 3461 Blue Star Hwy.
TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP, Voting at Pine Grove Township, 26520 CR 388
WATSON TOWNSHIP, 1895 118TH Ave.

POLLING LOCATIONS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE – AUDIO AND BRAILLE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.
PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT SHOULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE CLERK'S OFFICE

TO VOTE ON City and School Proposals.

City Proposals

Macatawa Area Express (MAX) Transportation Authority Operating Millage - This proposal will authorize the City of Holland and Holland Charter Township to levy 0.6 mill for the purposes of funding operations of the Macatawa Area Express (MAX) Transportation Authority, including replacing reductions in State funding. Of the 0.6 mill, (i) 0.3854 mill represents a renewal of the 0.4 mill authorization approved by the electors in 2021, which will expire December 31, 2026, (ii) 0.0146 mill represents a restoration of that portion of the same authority which has been reduced by application of the Headlee Amendment, and (iii) 0.2 mill represents an increase in the levy: Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the City of Holland and Holland Charter Township be increased by 0.6 mill ($0.60 per $1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2027 through 2031 inclusive, as a renewal of the 0.3854 mill previously authorized by the electors which expires December 31, 2026 plus new additional millage in the amount of 0.2146, for the purpose of operating Macatawa Area Express (MAX) Transportation Authority (whose geographic boundaries are coterminous with those of the City of Holland and Holland Charter Township), including maintaining existing public transportation services, and expanding new mobility options like micro-transit services to improve access for seniors, workers, students, and residents with limited transportation? It is estimated that, if levied, the 0.6 mill would raise approximately $2,454,982.00 in the 2027 calendar year.

School Proposals

GOBLES PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL - This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance. The remaining 16.7748 mills are only available to be levied to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will only be levied to the extent necessary to restore that reduction. The total operating millage levied will not exceed 18 mills in any year. Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Gobles Public Schools, Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan, be renewed by 34.7748 mills ($34.7748 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2027 to 2036, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2027 is approximately $1,276,640 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy)? **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HOLLAND SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL** - Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the School District of the City of Holland, Ottawa and Allegan Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.25 mills ($1.25 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2027 to 2036, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the purchase of real estate for sites for and the construction or repair of school buildings; for school security improvements; for the acquisition or upgrading of technology; for the acquisition of student transportation vehicles; for the acquisition of parts, supplies, and equipment used for the maintenance of student transportation vehicles; for the acquisition of eligible trucks and vans used to carry parts, equipment, and personnel for or in the maintenance of school buildings; for the acquisition of parts, supplies, and equipment used to maintain such trucks and vans; and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2027 is approximately $2,540,000? **HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL** - Shall Hopkins Public Schools, Allegan County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Ten Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars ($110,560,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing and equipping new school buildings and facilities; erecting additions to and remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; purchasing school buses; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; and equipping, developing, and improving athletic fields and facilities, parking areas, driveways, and sites? The following is for informational purposes only: The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026, under current law, is 3.80 mills ($3.80 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a -0- mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-six (26) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 7.95 mills ($7.95 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation). The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is $32,220,929 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is $33,515,029. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 26 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 10.34 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is $9,465,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is $0. (Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.) **SAUGATUCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL** - This proposal renews building and site sinking fund millage that expired with the 2025 tax levy and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Saugatuck Public Schools, Allegan County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed .5 mill ($0.50 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 3 years, 2026, 2027 and 2028, for sinking fund purposes to be used for the purchase of real estate for sites, for the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology, and for all other purposes authorized by law (.4812 mill of the above is a renewal of millage for building and site sinking fund purposes that expired with the 2025 tax levy and .0188 mill is to restore millage for the same purpose lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2026 is approximately $527,000? **ZEELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL** - This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy. Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18.3090 mills ($18.3090 on each $1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Zeeland Public Schools, Ottawa and Allegan Counties, Michigan, be renewed for the year 2027 to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2027 is approximately $12,504,064 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2026 tax levy)?

For a full list of all candidates and proposals, please visit our website at www.allegancounty.org or www.michigan.gov/sos

Bob Genetski, Allegan County Clerk/Register

Township of Martin

Allegan County, Michigan
ORDINANCE
No. 140

A FRANCHISE, granting to GREAT LAKES ENERGY COOPERATIVE, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate electric and fiber lines, poles and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges and other public places, and to conduct a local electric, broadband, and communication business in Martin Township, Allegan County, Michigan for a period of thirty years.

The Township of Martin ORDAINS:

Section 1. Grant of Franchise. The Township of Martin, located in Allegan County, Michigan (the "Township™) hereby grants to Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, its subsidiaries, successors, and assigns (the "Company") consent, permission, right and authority is hereby given to construct, lay, operate, maintain, use, and replace electric, fiber, and other communication lines, poles, cables, conduits, appliances, buildings and other necessary works, in the highways, streets, alleys and other public places in the Township and a non-exclusive franchise is hereby granted to the Company, its subsidiaries, successors, and assigns, to transact local business in the Township for the purposes of producing, storing, transmitting, selling, and distributing electricity and broadband communication services into and through the Township and all other matters incidental thereto.

Section 2. Consideration. In consideration of the rights, power and authority hereby granted, the Company shall faithfully perform all things required by the terms hereof.

Section 3. Use of Streets and Other Public Places. The Company, its successors and assigns, shall not unnecessarily obstruct the passage of any of the highways, streets, alleys, or other public places within the Township and shall within a reasonable time after making an opening or excavations, repair the same and leave it in as good condition as before the opening or excavation was made. The Company, its successors and assigns shall use due care in exercising the privileges herein contained and shall be liable to the Township and to every owner of property abutting the Company's lines or other facilities, for all damages and costs arising from the negligence of the Company or its officers, agents, and servants.

Section 4. Force Majeure. The Company shall not be liable for failure to furnish service as herein provided, or for any breach of the Company's obligations hereunder, if such failure or breach is caused by acts of God, labor troubles, riot, or any other causes or contingencies not reasonably within the control of the Company.

Section 5. Hold Harmless. The Company shall at all times keep and save the Township free and harmless from all loss, costs and expense to which it may be subject by reason of the Company's negligent construction and negligent maintenance of the structures and equipment hereby authorized. If any action is commenced against the Township resulting from Company's negligent construction and maintenance, the Company shall, upon notice, defend the Township and save it free and harmless from all loss, cost and damage arising out of such negligent construction and maintenance.

Section 6. Effective Date; Term of Franchise; Acceptance by the Company.
This Franchise shall take effect the day following the date ofpublication thereof, which publication shall be made within thirty (30) days after the date of its adoption, and shall continue in effect for a period of thirty (30) years thereafter; provided, however, that when this Franchise shall become effective the Township Clerk shall deliver to the Company a certified copy of the Franchise accompanied by written evidence of publication thereof as required by law, and the Company shall, within sixty (60) days after receipt of the above documents, file with the Township Clerk its written acceptance of the conditions and provisions hereof.

Section 7. Franchise Not Exclusive. The rights, power and authority granted by this Franchise are not exclusive, and nothing contained herein shall prevent the Township from granting other non-exclusive electric or broadband franchises.

Section 8. Franchise Revocable. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by the party desiring such revocation. Section 9. Effect and Interpretation of Franchise. All other franchises, ordinances and resolutions, and parts thereof, which conflict with any ofthe terms ofthis Franchise are hereby rescinded, to the extent of such conflict. The catch line headings which precede each section of this Franchise are for convenience in reference only and shall not be taken into consideration in the construction or interpretation of any of the provisions of this Franchise.

Section 10. Successors and Assigns. The words "Great Lakes Energy Cooperative" and the "Company," wherever used herein, are intended and shall be held and construed to mean and include both Great Lakes Energy Cooperative and its subsidiaries, successors, and assigns, whether so expressed or not.

Ayes:
Nays:
Date Passed: 3/11/26
Attested, by Order of the Township of Martin,
Allegan County, Michigan

Jennifer Wharton
Township Clerk
Glenn Leep
Township Supervisor

CERTIFICATION
The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Martin Township, Allegan County, Michigan, hereby certifies that (1) the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting
held on, 3-11-2026, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout, (2) the original thereof'is on file in the records in my office, (3) the meeting was conducted, and public notice thereof was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act (Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended) and, (4) minutes of such meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.

3-11-2026
Jennifer Wharton
Martin Township Clerk

Public Notices

demption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: March 19, 2026 Ignite Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340
(03-19)(04-16)

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 A.M., on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Elyse Suzanne Turley and Ronald Masters, wife and husband, ("Mortgagors"), gave a mortgage to Advia Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated January 28, 2022, and recorded on February 2, 2022, in Liber 4726, on Page 322, Allegan County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Two Dollars and 01/100 Dollars ($37,132.01) plus accrued interest at 9.250% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan @ 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lots 8 and 9, Block D, HOMESTEAD ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF OTSEGO, as recorded in Liber 2, Page 22 of Plats, Allegan County Records. Commonly: 532 E Morell St., Otsego, MI 49078—Tax Id #54-454-009-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: April 2, 2026 Advia Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340
(04-02)(04-30)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
57th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Allegan COUNTY
ORDER REGARDING
ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO. 25-03866-SP and
JUDGE Judge: SKOCELAS
Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone no.
Maria McCartney Trustee of Integrity Solo 401K
c/o Plaintiff's Counse
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.
SOTTILE AND BARILE, LLC
David C. Nalley (P82119), Franco Barile (P69468), & Anthony
Schievelbein (P88196),
394 Wards Corner Road, Suite 180, Loveland, OH 45140
440.572.1511 / foreclosure@sottileandbarile.com
v
Defendant's name, address, and telephone no.
Jeannette M. Meade
357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078
Nathan T. Clark
357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078
Unknown Occupant(s), if any
357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078
THE COURT FINDS:
1. Service of process upon the defendant, Nathan T. Clark, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.107(B)(1)(b) and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
IT IS ORDERED:
2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
a. 357 West Orleans Street, Ostego, MI 49078
d. Other: Publication in the Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks
/s/ Joseph Skocelas (P31714)
March 2, 2026
4-2 4-16

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 7, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Peter J. Gavrun, surviving tenant, unmarried, whose address is 1091 Bridge Road, Allegan, Michigan 49010, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, being a mortgage dated March 11, 2018, and recorded on April 6, 2018 in Liber 4234 Page 930, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 2, 2023 and recorded on November 2, 2023 in Liber 4899 Page 323, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY AND 58/100 DOLLARS ($82,270.58). Said premises are situated in the Township of Trowbridge, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH 1/8 POST OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 4, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH 1/8 LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST 1/4 1710.00 FEET TO THE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ON SAID 1/8 LINE 307.79 FEET, THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 240.05 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 313.17 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST 240.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 1091 Bridge Road, Allegan, Michigan 49010 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: April 2, 2026 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490) Johnson, Blumberg & Associates LLC 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602 312.541.9710 - Phone 312.541.9711 - Fax File No.: MI 26 7088
(04-02)(04-23)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 07, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Timothy A. Stevens and Tari Stevens, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Household Finance Corporation III Date of mortgage: November 26, 2002 Recorded on January 3, 2003, Liber 2366, on Page 209, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on July 6, 2011, Liber 3528, on Page 660, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-A Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty and 37/100 Dollars ($201,650.37) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: THE NORTH 124.84 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 SECTION 17, TOWN 4 NORTH RANGE 12 WEST. Commonly known as 4245 21st St, Dorr, MI 49323 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Owner Trustee of the Residential Credit Opportunities Trust IX-A Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1590154
(04-09)(04-30)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 26-66129-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

NOTICE
OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
TOWNSHIP OF MONTEREY
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTEREY, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance 26-01 which was adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Monterey at a regular board meeting held April 6, 2026.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND MONTEREY TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 10.14 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE ROADS TO PROVIDE RESTRICTIONS FOR PRIVATE ROADS WHICH ENCROACH UPON NONASSOCIATED PARCELS; TO AMEND SECTION 10.24 SITE PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL TO REQUIRE TRAFFIC IMPACT AND SAFETY CONSIDERATION AS A STANDARD OF APPROVAL.

SECTION 1 PRIVATE ROAD AMENDMENT. Insert the following text as 10.14.A.3.c into the Monterey Township Zoning Ordinance:
Where any part of the proposed road improvements or right-of-way easement intersects or transverses any part of a non-associated property. This shall include all parts of said property within and intersecting a public road right-of-way

SECTION 2 SITE PLAN REVIEW AMENDMENT. Insert the following text as 10.24.G.9 into the Monterey Township Zoning Ordinance:
The site plan shall demonstrate how adverse impacts to existing or expected traffic patterns will be mitigated or adequately accommodated.

SECTION 3 SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION 4 REPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect 8 days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of Ordinances 26-01 is on file in the Office of the Monterey Township Clerk at the address set forth below and has also been posted at the Township's website for inspection by the general public.

Megan Frank, Clerk
Township of Monterey
2999 30th Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 793-2014

Notice
Trowbridge Township
Allegan, Michigan

Planning Commission public hearing notice regarding special use in Agricultural District Zoning Ordinance:

To: Residence and Property owners of Trowbridge Township, Allegan County, Michigan and other interested persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Trowbridge Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 21st, 2026 7:00 p.m. at the Trowbridge Township Hall, 913 S.M-40, within the township to consider the following:

1. Special use request by Hunter Jamieson to allow a land split on a parcel less than 10 acres in the AG zoning district, per section 5.03 of the Trowbridge Township Zoning Ordinance. The vacant property is located at approximately on the North West corner of 24th St and M89 within the Township.
   The tax I.D. number is 21-001-042-10

2. Such other and further business as may properly come before the Planning Commission at said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that following the public hearing on the proposed special use request, the Planning Commission may approve, approve with conditions or deny the special use request.

PLEASE TAKE FUTHER NOTICE the special use application will be available for inspection at the Township Hall, 913 S. M-40, within the Township with an appointment at any time during regular business hours of regular days and will be available at said hearing for public inspection.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be received at the office of the Township Supervisor at any time during regular business hours of regular days and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Trowbridge Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Trowbridge Township Supervisor of the need for the same. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Supervisor by writing or calling the Supervisor.

All persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place to participate in discussion on the above.

TROWBRIDGE TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
Nick Loll, Chair
Jeff Kaylor, Trowbridge Township Supervisor
913 S. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010
616-218-1898

Notice
of Public Hearing
Salem Township
Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act) the Planning Commission of Salem Township will hold public hearing to deliberate and possibly take action on the following items on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Township Hall, located at 3003 142nd Avenue, Burnips, Michigan.

The applications received are as follows:

1. Request from Randall Palmbos, owner of 3520 139th Avenue, also known as permanent parcel number 03-19-030-005-20, for a special use permit to replace the existing single-family home onsite with a two-family dwelling within the R-1 Agricultural and Rural Estate District, per Section 6.03(b) of the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance.
2. A text amendment to Section 15.20 Keeping of Domesticated Farm Animals of the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance to add stricter requirements for the numbers of hobby farm rodents, poultry, and fowl permitted per the area of the subject site and in relation to each other. Said requirements currently do not apply to commercial farm operations, nor will the proposed replacement regulations.
3. A text amendment to Chapter 5 A-1 Agricultural Conservation District of the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance to provide regulations for the creation of parcels larger than two acres by special use permit, subject to specific criteria.
4. Text amendments to Chapters 3 Definitions, 16 Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems, and 23 Special Uses of the Salem Township Zoning Ordinance as follows:
   a. To add definitions related to battery energy storage systems in their alphabetical locations in Section 3.02 General Definitions.
   b. To add Section 16.04 Battery Energy Storage Systems to provide for the regulation and placement of battery energy storage systems within Salem Township.
   c. To amend Section 23.04(q) of Additional Standards for Specific Uses to expand said regulations to apply to all renewable energy and energy storage systems.
   d. To amend Section 16.03 Solar Energy Systems to provide for the ability to require a host community agreement as part of an eligible commercial solar energy system proposal.
5. Any other such business as comes before the Salem Township Planning Commission.

A copy of the application is available for review at the Township Hall during regular business hours. This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for Township residents and interested citizens to express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the request. Those unable to attend the public hearing via electronic or phone access are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Zoning Administrator at the Township Hall address cited above. All written comments must be received by no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 7, 2026.

If any resident has a physical disability which may limit his/her participation in this hearing, please notify the Township Hall at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

SALEM TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
BRANDON OOSTERINK, CHAIRMAN
616-877-2000

Public Notices

Estate of Dixie Merle Lerch
Date of Birth:*5/2/1942
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dixie Merle Lerch, died 3/9/2026 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to James LeRay McDaniel, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
James LeRay McDaniel
4736 118th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-675-0083

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Cindy Sue Howe Date of Birth:*7-10-59
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Cindy Sue Howe, died 3-22-26.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Katrina Loyd, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 4143 Radstock Dr., Dorr, MI 49323 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
4-13-26
Katrina Loyd
4143 Radstock Dr.
Dorr, Mich 49323

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust Estate
("Decedent") Robert J. McGee
Date of Decedent's Birth: March 13, 1947
Name of Trust: Robert J. McGee Trust dated June 2, 2025
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Decedent, Robert J. McGee, died January 29, 2026. There is no personal representative of Decedent's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of Decedent are notified that all claims against the Decedent, Decedent's estate, and/or Decedent's trust(s) will be forever barred unless presented to Donald D. McGee, Jr. and/or William .D. McGee, Trustee, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.
Dated:
Jason W. Wesseling (P85634)
WESSELING & BRACKMANN P.C.
6439 28% Avenue
Hudsonville, Michigan 49426
(616) 669-8185
Donald D. McGee, Jr.
3834 65th St.
Holland, MI 49423
William D. McGee
6843 126th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408

Allegan County Circuit Court Case No. 25-70574-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE The property described below shall be sold at public auction, by an authorized sheriff/deputy sheriff or county clerk/deputy county clerk, to the highest bidder, at the Circuit Court for the County of Allegan on the 4th of June, 2026 at 9:00 am, local time. On said day at said time, the following described property shall be sold: property located in the City of Fennville, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, particularly described as Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 5, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, City of Fennville, Allegan County, Michigan, being described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 18, Capen's Addition; thence South 298.00 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence East 198.00 feet; thence South 100.00 feet; thence West 198.00 feet; thence North 100.00 feet to the point of beginning, Allegan County Records. More commonly known as: 320 S Maple St, Fennville, MI 49408 This notice is from a debt collector. Date of Notice: 4/16/2026
Trott Law, P.C.
1590632
(04-16)(05-21)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 26-66127-DE and JUDGE Alice L. Bernal
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Kathleen Ellen Woodstock Date of Birth:*06/08/1953
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kathleen Ellen Woodstock , died 01/29/2026 .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sarah Newcomer, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
04/09/2026
Sarah Newcomer
4525 Walkers Ridge Rd
Kalamazoo, MI, 49009
269-370-2893

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 26-66123- and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Michele L. Tourangeau Date of Birth:* 1-20-72
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michele L. Tourange, died 2-226.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kohl Tourangeau, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1213 Martha Court, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
4-8-26
Ronald E. David P36928
99 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 1210
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-454-3883
Kohl Tourangeau
1213 Martha Court
Allegan, MI 49010
269-512-4874

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
PUBLICATION NOTICE
TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S TRUST ESTATE
Decedent: Julie Nan Judd Date of Birth: 3/15/1943
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Julie Nan Judd who lived at 6423 Copperleaf Court, Holland, Michigan, died December 15, 2025 . There is no probate estate.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Don R. Judd and Julie N. Judd Joint Revocable Trust Agreement dated January 22, 2018, will be forever barred unless presented to: Don R. Judd, Trustee c/o Kara L. Hoorn, 277 South Rose Street, Suite 6000, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
March 23, 2026
Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC
Kara L. Hoorn P71353
277 South Rose Street-Suite 6000
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-383-5813
Don R. Judd
c/o Kara L. Hoorn - 277 South Rose St. Ste. 6000
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: ANGELA SUE NORMAN has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026 AT 10:00 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: ANGELA SUE NORMAN to ANGELA SUE AUSTIN

Allegan
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust
Trust: The John VanGoor Living Trust, under agreement dated March 22, 2004
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John VanGoor , who lived at 3918 16th St., Wayland, MI 49348 Michigan died .
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to the Trustee, Brian VanGoor , within 4 months from the date of publication of this notice.
04/07/2026
Blaque W. Hough P-47697
300 South State St., Ste. 11
Zeeland, MI 49464 (616) 212-9336
Brian VanGoor
3946 16th St.
Wayland, MI 49348 (616) 889-6801

Trowbridge Township Residence

2026 Spring Clean-up

May 2nd
9:00am to 12:00pm

Location : Township recycle center next to the Township Hall at 913 M-40 south.

Items NOT accepted: Tires, Liquids, Construction materials, Hazardous waste, Yard waste (sticks. branches, leaves etc.).

Rain or Shine, clean it up and bring it in.
Questions: please call Jeff Kaylor 616-218-1898

Notice

of Cemetery Driveway Paving
Bidding Opportunity

Monterey Township is looking for a vendor to pave the northwest corner of the Poplar Hill Cemetery Driveway. Please visit montereytownship.org for further information. Bids are due prior to the township board meeting at 7:00pm on May 14th 2026. Any questions please contact Henry Reinart at 269/793-2014 x1.

Allegan Township Residents ONLY!

Saturday, April 18th, 2026
Free Clean-up Day
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
at
Allegan Township Hall
3037 118th Avenue

We will accept on this day:

Sofas	Old Grills	Carpet and Padding
Chairs	Mattresses	Bushes and Branches
Tables	Box Springs	Kids Toys
Appliances	Electronic devices (includes TV's)	
Tires (limit 4)		

One pick-up or small trailer-load building materials
One load brush and branches
And any other broken, out-dated items

NO - household trash/garbage accepted
NO - shingles accepted
NO - household hazardous waste accepted
NO – burning barrels

NOTICE

OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
For the May 5, 2026
Special Election
County of Allegan,
State of Michigan

To the QUALIFIED VOTERS OF OVERISEL TOWNSHIP:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST for the May 5, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Overisel Township Hall, 4307 144th Ave. Holland 49423.

THE ACCURACY TEST is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Paula Scholten, Clerk, Overisel Township

NOTICE

OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
FOR MAY 5, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO FILLMORE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS that the PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST to be used in examining and counting votes recorded on ballots and tabulating election results at the May 5, 2026 ELECTION in the Township of Fillmore Allegan County, Michigan is scheduled for April 17, 2026 at 10:30AM for Fillmore Township at the Fillmore Township Hall at 4219 52nd St., Holland, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast in ALL PRECINCTS AND COUNTING BOARDS at the election meet the requirements of law.

Elaine Mokma, Clerk
Fillmore Township

Help Wanted

Allegan Township is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant. The position will require office hours of Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm and four Saturdays during the year. The candidate should be professional in manner that works well with the public and a problem solver with proficiency in communication and computer skills. Basic understanding of clerical procedures such as typing, record keeping and filing are necessary. Interested candidates should possess organizational skills and have attention to detail.

Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Supervisor Steve Schulz, Allegan Township, 3037 118th Ave., Allegan, Michigan 49010 or call 269-673-5051 with questions.

CLASSIFIEDS

Furniture

Hardwood Artisans furniture (see Internet). Solid real wood, no laminate, two Oak dressers $500 each; large Cherry desk, Maple top, $1500; Cherry dining table, 4 chairs, cushions, $1700; small Cherry table, $250. Fraction of today's prices. Need pickup truck and two strong people. Paul in Saugatuck, 616-719-6028. cash only.

Hearing aids

Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touch-screen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-866-466-0762

Misc.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-866-438-1859

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE SUFFERED INJURY/DEATH because of a Boston Scientific PACEMAKER, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles Johnson 800/535-5727

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

INDOOR YARD SALE

Fennville United Methodist Church - 5849 M-89
Thurs. April 16; 4-7p.m.; Fri. April 17; 8a.m.-4p.m.; Sat. April 18; 9a.m.-Noon.

Multi-family donations offer something for everyone. Small table of collectibles. Bake Goods Available. All proceeds support our Education program, Community Outreach Programs and Gardens of Hope, a project in Haiti.

CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION
New homes, additions, remodeling, roofing, siding, cement work.
Dan Barber, licensed builder.
673-7048 evenings

GET THE MOST FOR YOUR HOME BY CONSULTING...
The Home Doctor
BEFORE YOU SELL!
It's medicine for your home!
ALREADY BOUGHT A HOME? It's time to customize it to your taste. Consult below!

INSURANCE

Hartman - Ellis
AGENCY LTD
Insurance
Auto • Fire • Life
Home • Business
155 Brady St., Allegan
673-4256

SEWER / SEPTIC

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK
& DEVELOPMENT CO.
• Septic Systems Manufactured Installed and Cleaned
• Site Preps
800-391-0203
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com
1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan

REDI-MIX CONCRETE

Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

BROE'S X-CAVATING
"Dozer & Loader Work"
• sand • crushed concrete
• gravel • slag & top soil
(616) 836-3970

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, PATIOS SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, FLOORS.
Free estimates
Call 269-377-3950

H	E	R	A			M	O	M	O	T			E	B	A	N
E	B	O	N			C	R	A	P	E			D	O	M	E
B	L	E	D			F	A	C	E	D			D	R	I	B
E	A	S	E	D			T	O	R			E	A	G	A	N
				S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S				
B	H	P				M	A	D			T	A	G		B	E	E
E	A	R	N	E	D				M	I	D			M	I	N	G
A	N	O	A	S				V	A	C			S	U	E	D	E
M	O	A	B			E	E	C			E	A	G	L	E	S
S	I	S			M	E	G			D	A	T			D	D	T
				T	E	L	E	M	E	T	E	R					
E	A	R	E	D			T	E	L			S	A	B	E	R
A	G	H	A			S	A	G	E	S				B	O	R	A
C	R	O	C			S	T	A	T	E				B	L	A	B
H	A	S	H			R	E	N	E	E				I	A	S	I

1	3	7	4	5	8	2	9	6
8	2	5	3	6	9	4	7	1
4	6	9	1	2	7	8	3	5
5	4	6	8	9	3	1	2	7
9	1	2	5	7	6	3	4	8
7	8	3	2	1	4	5	6	9
3	9	1	6	4	5	7	8	2
2	7	8	9	3	1	6	5	4
6	5	4	7	8	2	9	1	3

RELIGION SECTION

One of my favorite Easter stories comes from that afternoon when two men were leaving Jerusalem to return home to Emmaus. They were downhearted, bitterly disappointed that Jesus had been executed by the Romans, and the promise of the Kingdom was once again delayed.

Suddenly, they were joined by a third man, and they invited him to come along with them. While they were talking, they discussed what had just occurred over the past few days, and Jesus carefully began explaining everything to them. To make a long story short, it was only after the Lord departed that they realized how they had felt their hearts strangely warmed. They realized it was the risen Lord and hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples.

In our life we often think of friends as being long-term. Perhaps someone from childhood or school, or someone we have known for years. It is too easy to forget the short-term ones. A very wise woman once described the difference as long-term "friends of the heart" and short-term as "friends of the road." In the Gospel story, this was a matter of friends of the road.

We have many opportunities for that sort of friendship. It is the quick compliment from someone we don't know, and instantly we feel a bit better. It could be as short as a smile and acknowledgement as we pass by each other. Although these friends of the road are mere blips and flashes in our life they are increasingly important. It might include people we meet on vacation, spend a few hours or days with them, and then we go our separate ways.

You and I live in an increasingly isolated and isolating world. We are wary of anyone who comes to our door unannounced or invited. A telephone call is seen by some as intrusive. They prefer a text. On the street or in public, many people are looking down and focused on their devices. They never see, much less converse, with others.

Long before this change in our common life my father taught, "If you want to have a friend, be a friend." That certainly applies to today's culture. No one can ever have too many friends.

This is why I appreciate the final blessing that we have been using the past year at Good Shepherd, "Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. Be swift to love; make haste to be kind."

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UniPac "Contract Packaging Specialist"
809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park
269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc.
1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co.
Ready-Mix Concrete
3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan
673-6352

Allegan Eyecare
Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family
123 Locust St., Allegan
673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351
www.alleganeyecare.com

LEGG LUMBER & Hardware
Where the Builders Go! We deliver
730 River St., Allegan
269.673.4470
www.legglumber.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS
1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
269-673-3080

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc
892 34th St., Allegan
269-673-2309
Fax: 269-686-8508
tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC
For all your legal services
416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468
antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance
COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE
Your Complete Home Furnishing Store!
212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI
(269) 686-1155
8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI
(269) 637-6135
www.countryhousefurniture.net

God Integrity Vision Encouragement
He Opens People's Eyes
www.HOPKINSPROPANE.com

To sponsor this page and join these community-minded businesses, call 269-673-5534.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
Cheri Sleeman Schulz
Associate Broker, REALTOR
269-720-4735
cherischulz@bhhsmi.com
430 Western Avenue, Allegan